MARCH 1–7, 2001 · VOL.17, NO.1 · SAN JOSE, CA · FREE

Metro

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Silicon Valley's Weekly Newspaper

BIGAMIST MAN ON CAMPUS

PROF'S TRIPLE LIFE LEAVES TRAIL OF SHAME P8

HE'S GOT TO HAVE IT

CINEQUEST HONOREE SPIKE LEE STILL KNOWS HOW TO AGITATE AUDIENCES P34

PHOTOGRAPH BY ANTHONY PIDGEON

ODYSSEY THROUGH WORLD OF ACUPUNCTURE AND HOT ROCK HEALING LEAVES OIL-SMEARED FORMER NEW AGE VIRGIN UNCONVERTED

BY DANN MCDORMAN P20

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2001 Middle Eastern Dance Camp/Workshop - Israel
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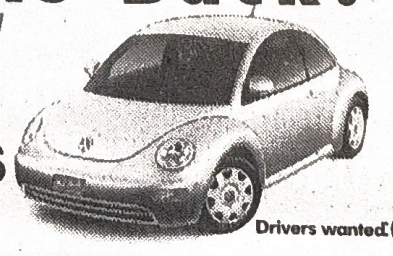

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March 1

So Sushi Me

Sushi stronghold, Yuki Sushi, still packs 'em in, but it's worth the wait, Joe Izzo Jr. writes 41

Online

MetroActive (http://metroactive.com)

King of Cool

Jazz philosopher Mose Allison on life, music and the pursuit of hipsterism

Andalusian Attitude

Local flamenco dancers say there's a lot more to their art than stomping and twirling

Visual Poetry

Cabrillo Gallery's exhibit of Asian metal sculpture is a unique alloy of East and West

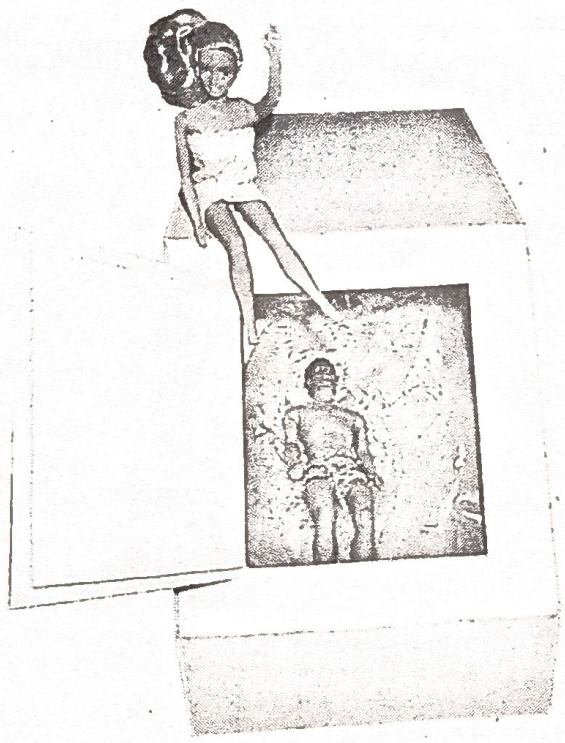
News From the Neighborhoods

See metroactive.com/metro/ for a roundup of Silicon Valley stories

Boulevards (http://boulevards.com)

The New Slackers

Laid-off dotcommers are discovering anew the joys of apathy, according to Salon's Janelle Brown and Katharine Mieszkowski



Kate Brown

Zen-aphobia

A newly planted Californian takes a stroll through the New Age universe 20

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Metro

Silicon Valley's Weekly Newspaper

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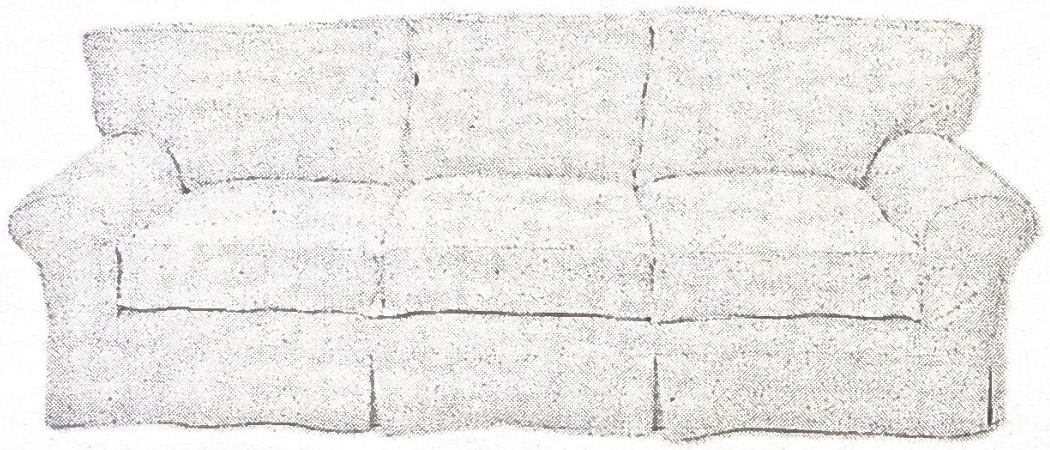

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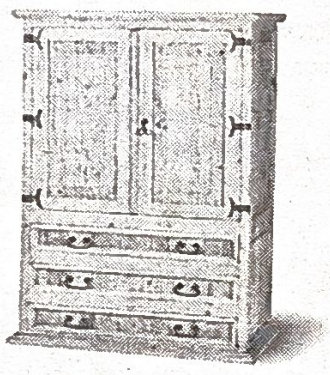

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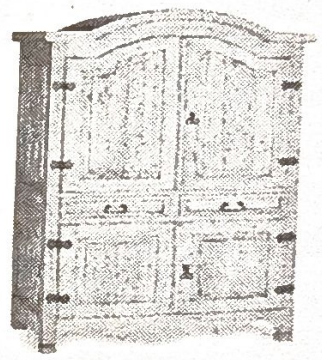

Small Sierra Armoire
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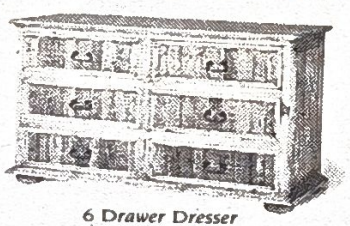

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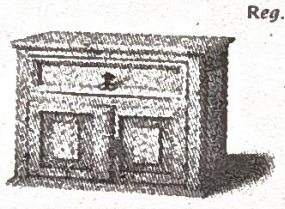

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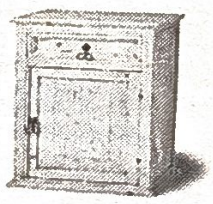
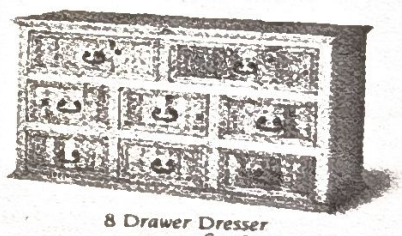


Tall Nightstand



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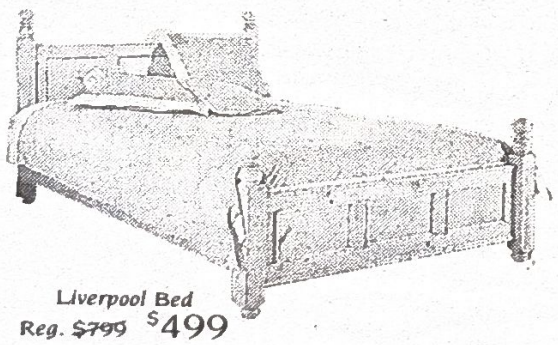

Liverpool Bed
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Liverpool Armoire
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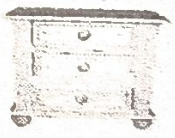
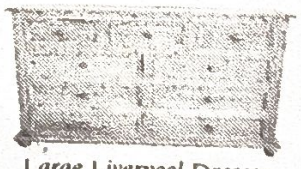
Liverpool Nightstand
Reg. ~~$169~~ $119





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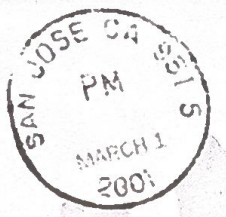

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Hard to Swallow

As a physician who treats both men and women, I wanted to respond to "The Pleasure Principle" (Jan. 11), by Mary Spicuzza.

Ms. Spicuzza makes the statement that "... most men get Viagra compliments of their HMO." If, indeed, that is true on a national level, I wish she would cite her source. I can tell you, among the men I treat here in Santa Cruz County, that her statement is false. Most men to whom I prescribe Viagra pay for their medicine out of pocket. If I apply for what is known as "prior authorization" to, for instance, Blue Cross HMOs, that application will almost always be rejected.

I agree with Ms. Spicuzza that all too frequently there are gender-based differences between the way men and women are treated medically in this society. Both men and women are involved in conception, of course, but women bear a disproportionate amount of the burden when it comes to contraception. It is my hope in the future that all insurance plans and all HMOs will provide universal coverage for that other pill—The Pill, the oral contraceptive pill, that prevents the unwanted pregnancies that can result from the successes of Viagra, female creams, etc.

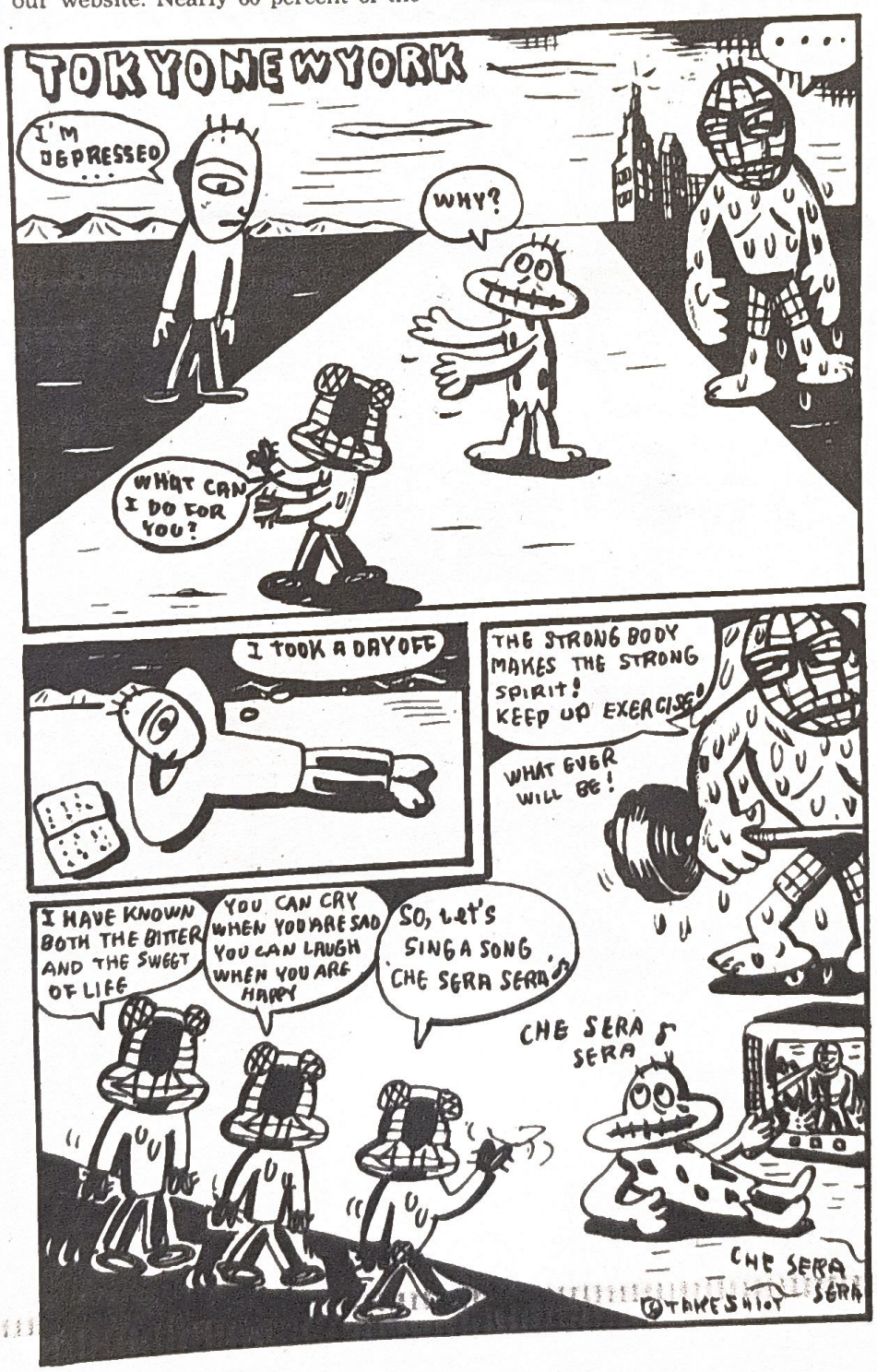
James MacDonald, M.D., Capitola

Get Technical

In addition to being patently unfair, your article about Silicon Valley College is full of falsehoods, omissions, innuendoes and condescension bordering on racism ("Magna Cum Lousy," Feb. 8). Let me cite just a few.

Would your paper have accepted a report on DeAnza College based on the ruminations of the former student who was so distraught with DeAnza he was allegedly going to plant bombs? I suspect not, because that would be unfair. But in the case of our college, Silicon Valley College (SVC), whose sin is being a for-profit college, the reporter reaches his conclusions—and asks his readers to reach the same conclusion—about SVC without interviewing a more representative sample of our student population: those who complete their training on time and secure employment in their field of training.

The report makes a great deal about our recruitment efforts via radio and our website. Nearly 60 percent of the student population enrolls at SVC as a direct result of referral, the overwhelming majority of which are from friends and family members who previously attended SVC and are satisfied with their experience at the college.



The media mix for our paid advertisement, which is evaluated on a bimonthly basis, includes Yellow Pages, TV, direct mail, newspapers, magazines, web advertising and radio—which accounts for less than 1 percent of our leads. The radio selection includes hard rock and hip-hop/R&B. The target market is the unemployed and the underemployed. Your reporter characterizes the announcer in the KYLD-FM ad as "ghetto dawg." Is this journalism? What about the announcer on the hard rock station KSJO-FM: Is he "biker dude"? If we advertised on a country-and-western radio station, would the announcer be "redneck Billy Bob"?

An admission representative performs her job ethically and refuses to take the reporter's bait to over-promise and mislead. Frustrated, the reporter tells us she "swerves around hard promises." The SVC catalog discloses in a straightforward manner (and in identical font and type as the contents of the Program Objectives) that certification is "a secondary objective." But, according to the reporter, it is written "carefully but knowingly" and "in fine print." This is not just shoddy reporting; it is dishonest reporting.

As to whether we were dropped by Cisco or we voluntarily withdrew from the Academy, your reporter, allegedly quoting a Cisco representative, says that we were dropped because "a student wrote a letter" to them. Your readers are being asked to believe that a company as savvy as Cisco would terminate its business relationship with a college based on the complaint of a single student. In fact, we voluntarily withdrew, and informed Cisco Systems staff members of our intent to withdraw in writing, when we were told that we must change our instructional delivery method and schedule to be no more than 12 hours/week. As for SVC's relationship with Microsoft, we are, in fact, and we have been for years, a Microsoft Certified Partner (soon to be a Microsoft Certified Technical Education Center) providing a Microsoft Official Curriculum, Microsoft press materials and instruction from Microsoft Certified Technical Trainers (MCT).

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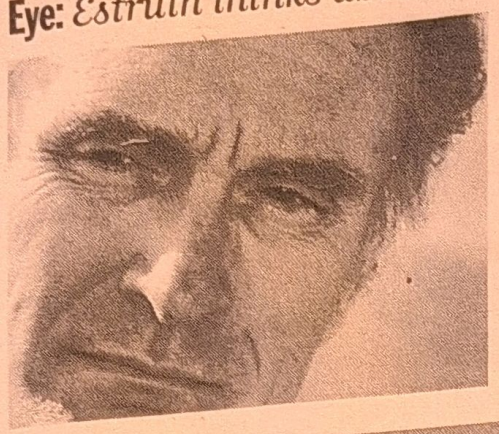
Eye: *Estruth thinks about running for SJ mayor. Gonzo's worrisome polling numbers.*



Going the Distance: *Records show that political science professor Cobie Harris charged San Jose State University for the cost of a trip to Africa's Ivory Coast the week he married his third wife, along with numerous long distance phone calls made to the same location from his campus phone.*

BURBSCAPE

News Online

For longer versions of these articles, go to www.metroactive.com/metro.

Park Proposal

CUPERTINO—Groans from the audience told the whole story: These residents living around Portal School opposed both the use of Portal Park and the conversion of Portal Elementary.

When Cupertino Unified School District boardmember Barry Chang admitted the district does not have sufficient funds to carry out the conversion, their groans turned into shouts. Chang expressed hopes that residents would "look at the big picture," when considering the location of a fifth middle school. When he suggested the district and the city could engineer a plan to share use of Portal Park, he was met with a resounding "No!"

Child Molester

LOS GATOS—One of the Los Gatos girls allegedly molested by a Santa Cruz man was his biological daughter, according to the Santa Cruz district attorney's office, and both girls were under the age of 14.

Lee Thomas Bjorn, recently arrested in Los Gatos, has been charged with 11 counts of molestation in Los Gatos and five counts of molesting three girls in Santa Cruz County over the past 20 years. Records indicate Bjorn was arrested several times in the past but never convicted for most of the charges filed against him. He is currently being held at Santa Clara County Jail without bail.

New Vision

SUNNYVALE—Attempting to tip the debate over what the Bible says about homosexuality, Bruce Hahne, coordinator of the New Visions project, hopes to spread love and acceptance. Twenty-five churches in Santa Clara Valley are sponsoring this year's five-week series, which will be held mostly at the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto. "When I think that a congregation as small as ours is touched by the lives of so many gay people, and when I think of the misunderstanding they must feel, it breaks my heart," says Roger Jones, minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale.

Billy Bob flakes out.

polis

MARRIED TO A MOB

Three Strikes

Controversial SJSU political science professor Cobie Harris has endured firestorms before, but this time he's had some extraordinary explaining to do—and not just to the university, but to three women, all of whom were married to him at the same time

By Dara Colwell

"IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN community, character is measured not in terms of possessions but in terms of what one has overcome," wrote Cobie Kwasi Harris, political science professor at San Jose State University, in an article syndicated by *Pacific News Service* in 1997.

Harris, who specializes in comparative politics and frequently expounded upon his views—ranging from Marxist theories of racism to the black vote—would have much to overcome that year himself. First, there was his stormy stand on the universi-

Continued on page 11

SLICE

Razor's Edge

It's not just for MTV—Bay Area risk takers are pushing America's scooter obsession toward a more extreme edge

By Mary Spicuzza

ANYONE WHO PUTS IN quality time watching MTV surely has seen a popular episode of its hit show, *Jack Ass*, featuring one of its masochists repeatedly falling on his face while trying an off-road adventure on his Razor scooter. While most couch potatoes may have written off extreme scooting as suited only to the bumbling cast of *Jack Ass*, Bay Area risk takers are breaking away from their Barcoloungers long enough to discover that wheelies, flipping and grinding can be achieved on a scooter. Who knew that the trendiest toy of the recent holiday season—dubbed by critics as a skateboard for those with no coordination—has such potential for death-defying action?

No one could guess the scooter's true trick potential watching busy downtown San Jose commuters, who mainly seem to use them to get from the office to the nearest coffee shop. Vans Skatepark in Milpitas also limits the ability of scooter riders to earn street cred among skateboarders and even rollerbladers, former wimps of the wheel world. Vans allows both boards and blades, but scooters are strictly prohibited.

It wasn't until a trip to Westfield Shoppingtown Valley Fair mall that the mystery of more extreme scooter riding started to unravel. Jewelry-laden shops like Claire's Boutique and Afterthoughts both feature scooters—Claire's even supplies accessories like a black carrying case with red-orange flames. But any traces of an edgier side to scooters only begin to show at the Sharper Image shop, where friendly sales associate Mike says that it's the kids who have discovered that Razors, a leading scooter name brand, have excellent trick potential.

"All of the kids in my court have them," Mike says. "I can hear them constantly practicing different tricks, grinding and slapping. Some of them are actually pretty good, and the handlebar makes them really easy to maneuver."

At Valley Fair and malls across America, Sharper Image stores are banking on the idea that Razors can be used for more extreme riding. The Razor carrying case, complete with a small cellular phone pocket, takes up little window space compared with more exciting toys, such as the Rugged Wheels Razor with Big Wheels, perfect for those hoping to take their scooters off on some off-road adventures. The biggest seller is still the Razor Xtreme, complete with shock absorbers and a wheelie bar for tricks.

"No question, I won't hesitate to say that Razors are our biggest sellers," says Lou Soucie, longtime media spokesperson for Sharper Image.

Apparently the best-seller before was the Ionic Breeze Silent Air Purifier, designed to filter dust mites and pet dander from the air. While pushing the Razor is a start in the right direction, Sharper Image still has a ways to go if it wants to transform into an extreme sports hub.

"I use the wheelie bar as a footrest," Soucie says. "So it has a dual purpose to it. Otherwise your foot is just hanging off to the side."

Still, Soucie may qualify as an extreme rider, solely because he still cruises around on a Razor at 58 years old.

Online retailers at REI and California SpeedSports, a Livermore-based wheel sports shop, offer video guides for risk-taking Razor riders.

"We picked them up and sell them, but we haven't gone as far as sponsoring riders, teams, anything like that," Joe of SpeedSports says. "We've been selling scooter videos [teaching tricks], though."

While adults have dominated the scooter marketing frenzy, people under 12 years old are the ones willing to do risky riding. While few adults know anyone who can use their scooters for more than commuting, every preteen asked had either tried tricks on a scooter or watched somebody else perform them.

Paul Richards, a nine-year-old Santa Cruz athlete, is currently mastering grinding his scooter. Richards says he waxes the board and then glides—or grinds—along curbs or other concrete surfaces.

Erica Aiken, a Santa Cruz–based designer, says her 10-year-old son and all of his friends do tricks on them, and proudly reports that none have been seriously injured.

Contrary to mainstream media hype about the impending doom and broken bones surrounding the scooter craze, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center spokesperson Matt Shenonie says that there have been few trips to the emergency room courtesy of Razors or other scooters.

Scooter fans like McDermott and Sharper Image's Soucie still say it's an urban jungle out there for riders facing the threats of Silcon Valley's open roads. Potholes, uneven sidewalks and curbs all present plenty of opportunities for flipping over the handlebar, although McDermott admits the only time she took a dive was riding indoors on a relatively flat surface.

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BACKBEAT

PRESENTS

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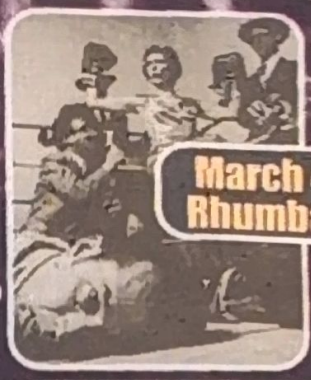

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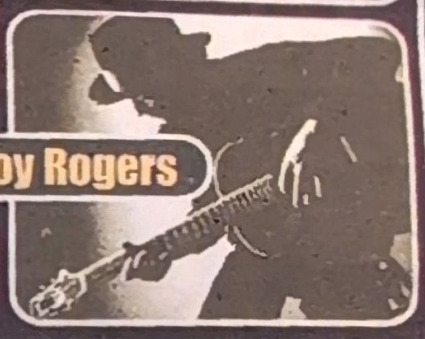

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Cobie Harris

Continued from page 9

ty's faculty selection process, which Harris, then interim chair of the African American Studies Department, claimed, "reinforced patterns of institutionalized racism." Harris quit the selection committee, but not before one committee member, likening Harris' stance to a temper tantrum, remarked the professor had bolted "in feigned protestation."

Next, there was the reverse discrimination lawsuit filed by assistant professor Cynthia Mahabir, who alleged Harris had poisoned her chances for tenure because she wasn't "black enough." Mahabir, a sociologist of East Indian descent, claimed that Harris had voiced this belief to her at a faculty meeting, saying the African American department should not grant tenure to "an Indian," even though she had been teaching for 10 years. The university handed Mahabir a check for $340,000 to drop her suit. She resigned anyway, contending that the entire business had left the university with "a terrible stain of discrimination."

While such political skirmishes might cost a less outspoken professor his job or professional standing, Harris managed to continue on his career path. And unbeknownst to his university colleagues, Cobie was carrying a huge personal burden of his own that year, a burden that even his friends and family didn't know about.

Just this past September, Harris' wife of 15 years, Carla Inniss, filed for divorce on the grounds of "prior existing marriage." According to Inniss' court documents, Harris was, in fact, married to two other women during his marriage to Inniss. And further documentation obtained by METRO shows that Harris used thousands of dollars in San Jose State University funds for "professional development" to woo, marry and keep in phone contact with his third wife, who lived on Africa's Ivory Coast.

"Cobie Harris is a trigamist," says Thomas Roland, former attorney for Harris' third wife, over his cell phone. "That much I will say."

Wedding Bells

COBIE HARRIS married his first wife, Wolansa Shiferaw, in 1975. The couple separated in 1980, but did not go though legal divorce proceedings at the time. Shiferaw eventually moved to Oakland and Harris married again in 1984, this time to Carla Inniss, with whom he started a family. The couple had twins in Los Angeles, where Harris was earning a Ph.D. in political science from UCLA, and settled in the Bay Area where their youngest daughter was born. In 1990, Harris moved his family into their Richmond home, where nothing would ruffle the facade of this seemingly typical family life until 1997.

Records obtained by METRO show that early this year, Harris traveled to Abidjan, the Ivory Coast's southern, palm-tree-lined capital, where on January 16, 1997, he married Cecelia Mou Charles, a United Nation diplomat from Kenya stationed there. The couple was married in the city's Cocody suburb in, according to the marriage certificate, a brief civil ceremony that took place at 5 in the afternoon. The new bride knew that her husband would soon have to return to his job in the United States. What she didn't know, however, was that the groom had two wives back in the United States—Shiferaw, estranged and living in Oakland, and Inniss, the mother of his three children, managing the family home in Richmond.

Four days later, Harris returned to

Continued on page 13

1,000-YEAR HABIT

Marriages of Inconvenience

Having more than one legal spouse at a time is against the law, but it's not a prioirty for law enforcement

THE ANCIENT ISRAELITES, including King Solomon, who had 700 wives—a healthy lot, even in those days, and King David, who had 99, according to the New Testament, believed that no man should marry more wives than he could care for, a tenet also practiced by Islam. While the distinct Greco-Roman tradition of monogamy eventually gained a foothold in the region, the Jewish community continued practicing polygamy during Roman times, as chronicled in Jewish historian Josephus' *Dialogue With Trypho,* written in the first century, C.E.

In the Western world, where social historians contend we practice "consecutive polygamy"—marrying one spouse after the next, with divorce peppered in between bouts—our society tends to associate the concept solely with Mormons. Although the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints actually withdrew its support of polygamy in 1830, threatening excommunication to those who practiced it, some Mormons have continued to take multiple wives. But not only Mormons desire plural marriage. Today, those shirking social convention by seeking an additional wife advertise openly on the Internet, placing ads on sites such as Polygamy.com. "We're a happily married couple with two kids. We live in a nice home in San Francisco," one personal reads. "My husband would treat us both equally. He makes sure his women are pleased."

Polygamy is still practiced in Jordan, Israel, Syria, Yemen, New Guinea, Indonesia and Africa, where the rural tradition, built on wealth and prestige, is regarded as advantageous. According to sociological data collected in 1967 from Africa's 742 tribes, 78 percent saw polygamy as the preferable form of marriage, meaning it was largely regarded as the social norm. Even so, here in the United States, social morays dictate monogamy as the norm—even when it leads to serial affairs and an incredibly high divorce rate.

Polygamy, or "bigamy," in its legal guise, then, remains a Western crime, although one that is rarely prosecuted. Back in the 1860s, the penalty for engaging in polygamy was a $500 fine and a maximum of five years in prison. Today, the punishment hasn't exactly kept up with inflation—tried as either a misdemeanor or a felony, bigamy is punishable by a $10,000 fine or one year in county jail or state prison.

"So many people commit bigamy innocently—it happens all the time," says one nameless lawyer, explaining that often, ex-spouses casually assume their divorce has gone through when remarrying. "It's almost like smoking pot in public—who cares? It's only in extreme cases, when the guy's going around stealing money from women, that it's a big deal."

This is something the county district attorney's office readily concurs with. "It's an unusual crime and it's rare for it to come to our attention," says supervising District Attorney Cameron Bowman. Bowman, who hasn't filed a bigamy case this year, has only filed a handful in his entire career. His colleague Mike Fletcher underlines his point. "Criminal court is often not a good forum to solve this problem—we can't grant divorces," he says. "Really, emotional harm is something we can't address. But when there's fraud involved, we're more likely to file."

Dara Colwell

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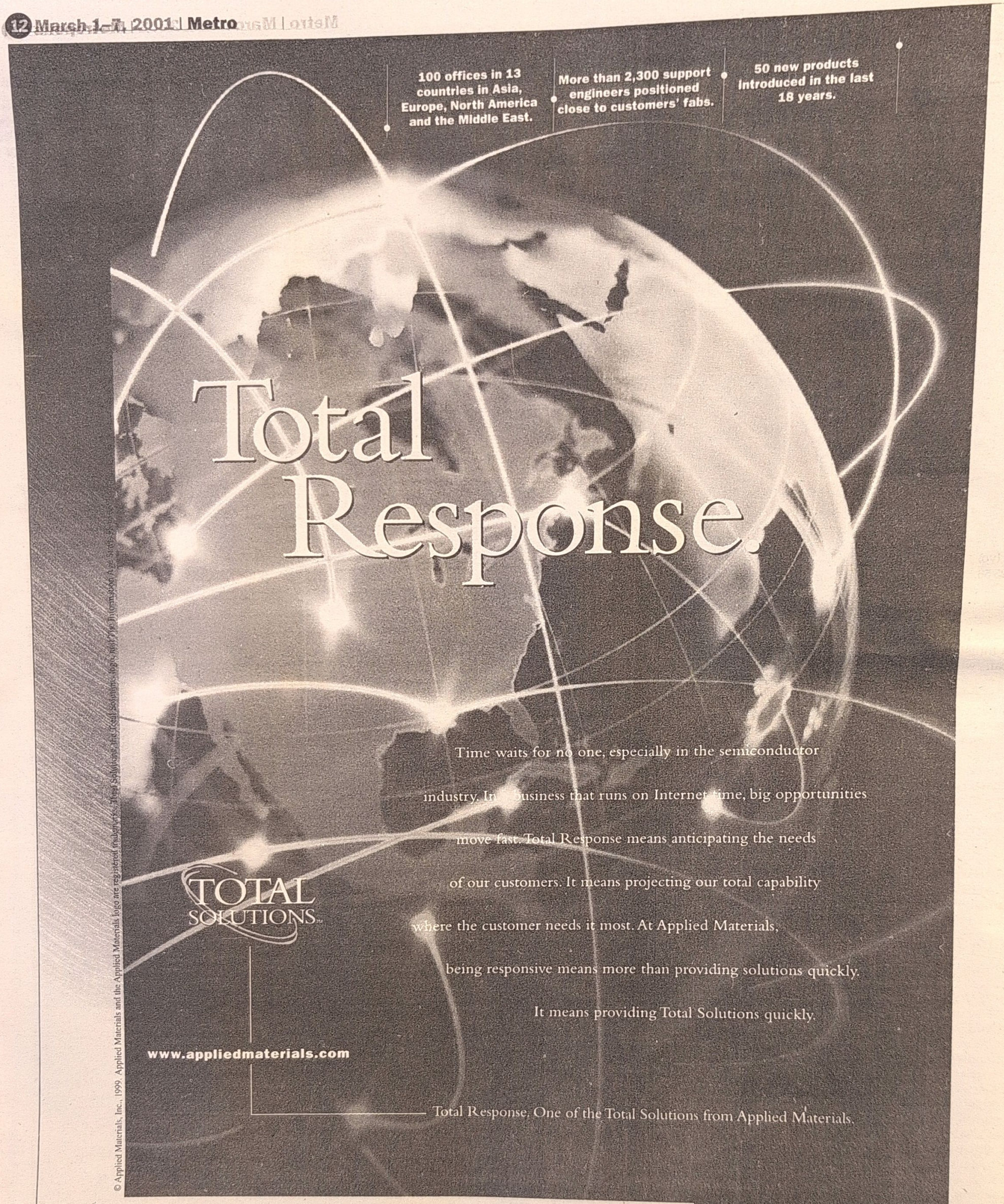
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Cobie Harris

Continued from page 11

California and began a new semester at San Jose State University.

As the purpose of his visit to Abidjan during the week of his wedding Harris wrote "to delivery [sic] a series of Lectures on African-American Political Activity" on his travel request form—which snagged him $2,000 in university-approved funding. A two-year record of his campus telephone bills lends insight into his relationship with Cecelia, who is currently stationed in South Africa and refused to be interviewed for this story.

The documents show that Harris dialed internationally, on average, five times per month, making his bills soar above those of his colleagues. Harris' monthly office phone bill ranged from $147.92—calls made in the last two weeks of January 1997—to $682.73 (in October 1997), with one 208-minute call to the Ivory Coast costing the university $425.56. In 1997 alone, the department chair made roughly $2,400 worth of international phone calls.

Throughout 1997, Harris was married to all three women and living with Carla Inniss, while courting his newest African wife, Cecelia Charles, from overseas.

According to court documents, in mid-1997, Charles decided to look for a home in the Bay Area. In January 1998, she bought a duplex in Berkeley, according to Alameda County Superior Court documents, where she took the upstairs apartment and Harris collected rent from the tenant living below. Just one month earlier, Harris' divorce from his first wife, Wolansa Shiferaw, became finalized.

According to court documents, Harris and Cecelia made time to visit one another—he would travel to Africa and she would fly to the United States. Harris' Richmond wife, Carla Inniss, even accompanied her husband on one of those journeys with money Cecelia had provided, believing it was solely for Harris and his children, according to Cecelia's divorce papers.

The games continued until somehow, when Cecelia began living nearby in Berkeley, she discovered Harris had another wife—and another life—and decided to file for divorce.

"Now that I realize that Mr. Harris is a polygamist," Charles wrote in a petition dated March 1999,"I wish to obtain a court order giving me exclusive control of the property so that he will not have any reason—feigned or real—to come upon (it.)" The stated reason for Charles' divorce was "voidable marriage, based on fraud," according to court documents.

Court documents show that Harris used three different middle names and also sometimes went by the name Kwasi Kokoroko.

Harris has not returned METRO's phone calls to his office. The university reports he is currently on sabbatical in Tanzania and is unavailable for comment.

Good Standing

SAN JOSE STATE University did not initiate an investigation into Cobie Harris' use of university funds until September 1999, nearly two years after the trip and phone calls to the Ivory Coast. The following year, in June 2000, Harris reimbursed the university "an appropriate amount" for international calls, as well as paying "an appropriate allocation of costs for professional and personal activities" to the Ivory Coast, according to a statement from the University's Office of Public Affairs.

Dean Sylvia Rodriguez Andrew, who was responsible for signing off on Harris' travel requests throughout this time period, declined to comment about the delay in investigating the expenses and the payback arrangement. According to public information officer Sylvia Hutchinson, Harris, who is a tenured professor, remains a "faculty member in good standing."

Hutchinson's statement, however, doesn't wash with everyone. "It's doubtful full restitution was made," says a senior faculty member in the African American department who wishes to remain anonymous. "I'm shocked and appalled at the hypocrisy. This shows a lack of oversight by several administrators going all the way up to the top."

According to the university's own statement of professional responsibility, all faculty members must "hold themselves and their colleagues to high ethical standards and address ethical abuses when they become known." Harris' activities, which potentially fall under the unlawful use of state resources, according to the California Government Code, Section 8314, could feasibly make him liable for fines. According to the Government Code, that penalty, which is assessed in a civil action, cannot exceed $1,000 for each day of the violation, plus three times the value of the unlawful use of funds. But the university has taken no legal action regarding Harris' personal behavior.

In a METRO article that ran in October 1997—a pivotal year, it seems, for Harris—the professor was interviewed by a staff reporter about the media's coverage of African American reparations for slavery. "It's not getting much national press," Harris said in the article. "But it's the big talk in intellectual circles." The words that followed are laced—three and a half years later, in retrospect—with a heavy double meaning, even one Harris might find himself tripping over. "An apology is symbol-

Continued on next page

'Cobie Harris is a trigamist, that much I will say'

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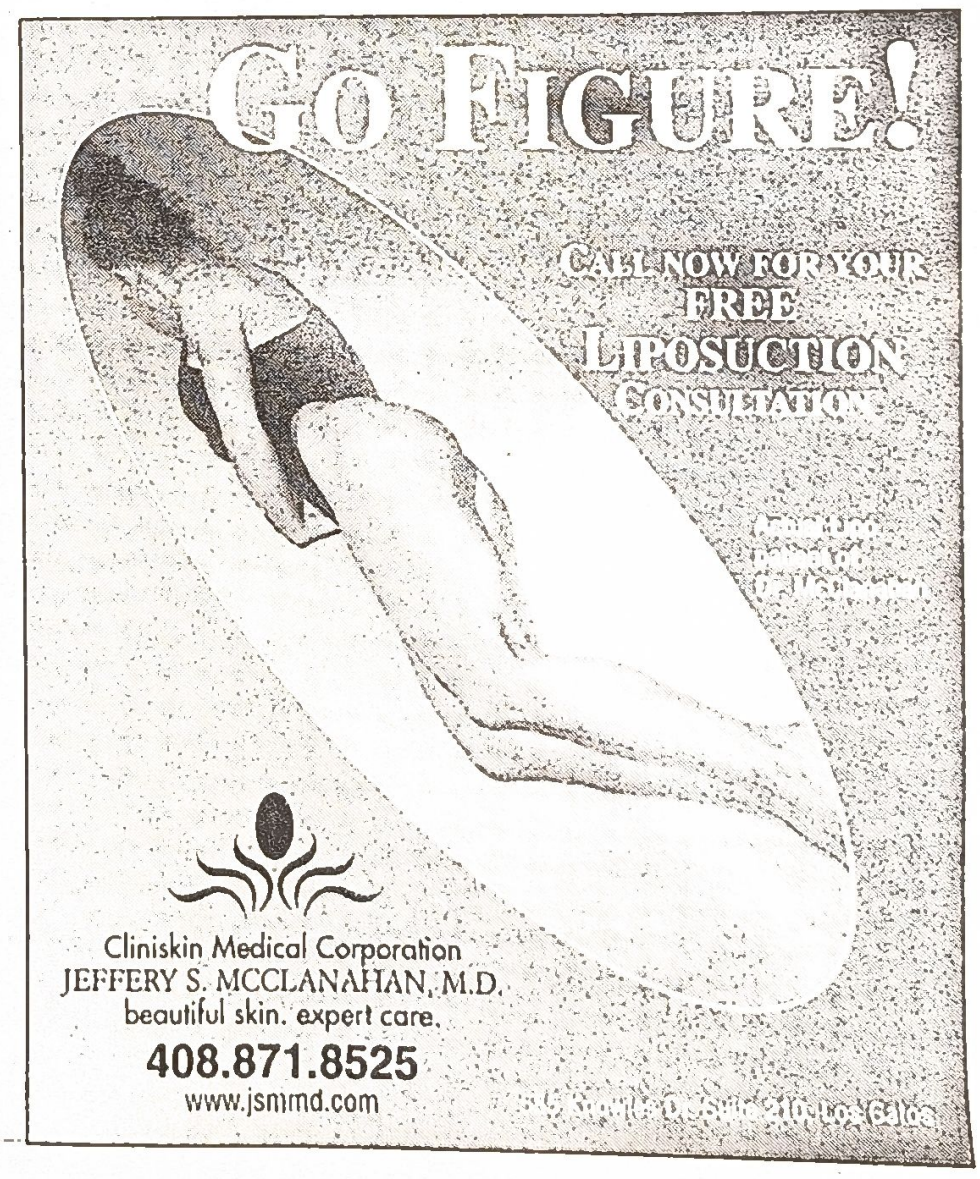

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Cobie Harris

Continued from previous page

ic," Harris told the reporter as he peered across his desk. "It's a step in the right direction, but by itself, it's not adequate."

Silent Victims

AS MIDDLE WIFE Carla Inniss, a striking woman dressed all in black, sits in her elementary school classroom in Berkeley, engaged in a parent-teacher conference, her youngest daughter waits restlessly in the hallway. The hallway is covered in children's drawings, penciled pictures of round faces, with awkward, childish writing below. Inniss' youngest, a spirited and chatty 10-year-old who resembles her father, paces the hallway, anticipating when her mother will take her home.

Harris dialed internationally, on average, five times per month, making his bills soar above those of his colleagues. In 1997 alone, he made roughly $2,400 worth of phone calls.

Inniss, who filed for divorce this past fall after 15 years of marriage, refuses to speak of her husband or his other wives. "This is inappropriate—think of the embarrassment this has caused my children," she says. First wife Shiferaw, too, refuses to speak. Messages left on her answering machine went unreturned. A few days later, Shiferaw unplugged the machine altogether.

Dr. William Fitzgerald, of the Silicon Valley Relationship and Sex Center, says the type of behavior displayed in this case is consistent with that of a "sequestered polygamist."

"The literature on this says that this [kind of] man is somewhat arrogant and has a sense of entitlement, a distinctly narcissistic trait," he says. "It's an act of selfishness to 'do what I want to do to get what I want' and there's a compensatory delusion that he needs to be secretive so he can't be found out. It's intriguing."

Linda Janowitz, Ph.D., a family therapist who has been practicing for 25 years, says the effect on wives in polygamy cases can be severe. She believes discovering the existence of another wife or family would spark a great deal of shame. "In an affair, there's a sense of betrayal—but that's one lie. Here, you are living a lie. Absolutely everything," she says, "is a lie." ⊙

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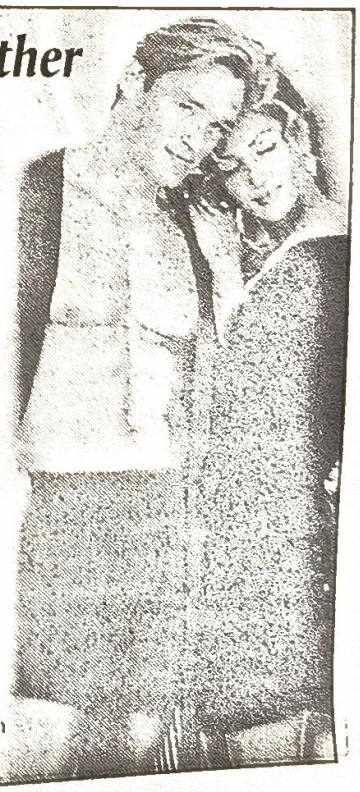

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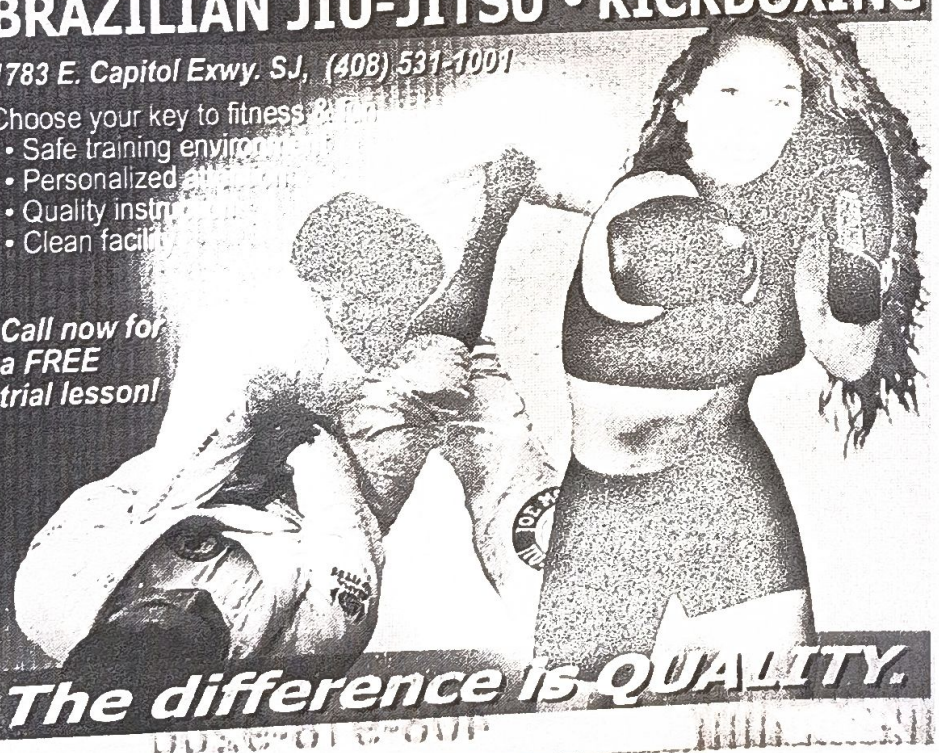
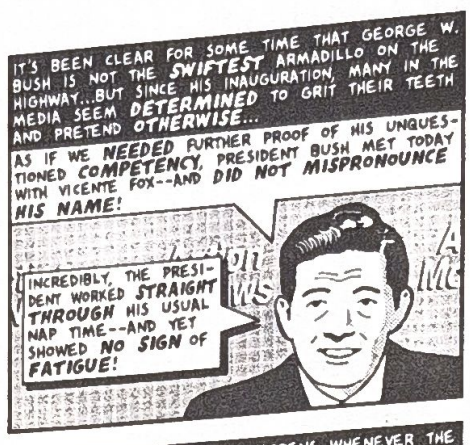
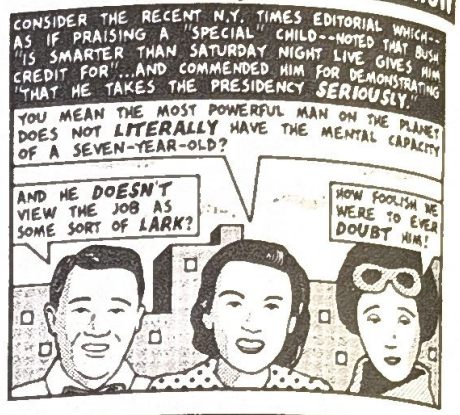


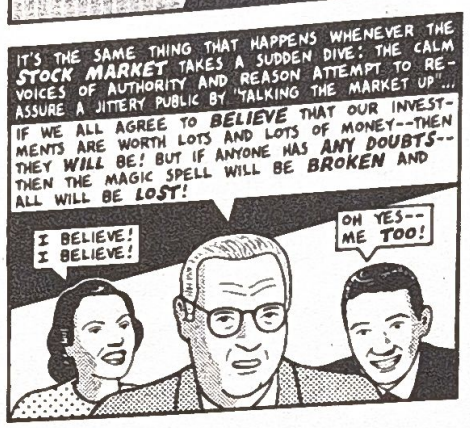
The difference is QUALITY.

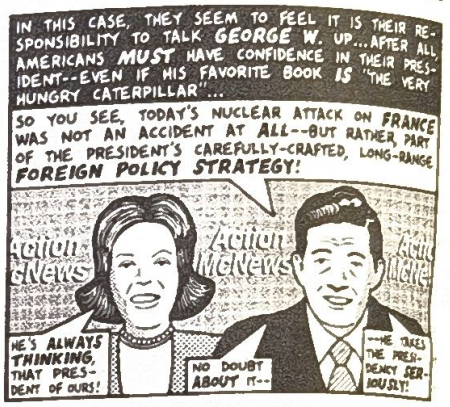
This Modern World

BY TOM TOMORROW









troubletown

BY LLOYD DANGLE

NOTES FROM THE UNDERBELLY

Hors D'Oeuvres A la Vahl

We accept no credit cards.—Vahl's menu

SITTING IN UN-REDEVELOPED VAHL'S, about 50 yards from the Alviso Slough, Mme. X and I basked in the ambience of semigloss pink walls, stuffed ducks in the corners, a black velvet painting of the Golden Gate Bridge lit by pin lights, and lots of parrot artwork—including the wallpaper. Amelia Vahl, somehow bubbly at 92 or so, had escorted us to our table. A perfect locale to discuss Elvis Presley zealots, long gone Frontier Village, and ways to infiltrate the secret chambers of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency—on the 11th floor of a building on San Fernando Street.

Living with a parrot, I am sensitized to parrot motifs. I asked Amelia about the large latch-hook embroidery of several larger-than-life parrots. "My husband's mother took 500 hours to do that parrot," Amelia told me. Eric and Amelia Vahl opened Vahl's in 1942. Prior to that, the establishment operated under the name of Newport Inn—a tavern with eight stools. In fact, Vahl's liquor license still indicates Newport Inn—not Vahl's. That is a fun fact.

Our meal debuted with Hors D'Oeuvres a la Vahl: Ritz crackers, liver pâte, little chunks of blue cheese, sliced salami, radishes cut in the shape of flowers, and a strange orange Jell-O studded with mandarin fruit and topped with coconut shredding. Superb, and it only got better. The menu offers up Martinis and Manhattans—available from the Spirit Room. Premium dishes are listed on the left inside of the menu, economy fare to the right. Mme. X informed that during holidays, the right side of the menu is stapled over with a sheet of paper—with holiday greetings. The picture on the cover of the menu appears to be a German village. Perfect. I will dream of Germany while sitting next to a slough in Alviso.

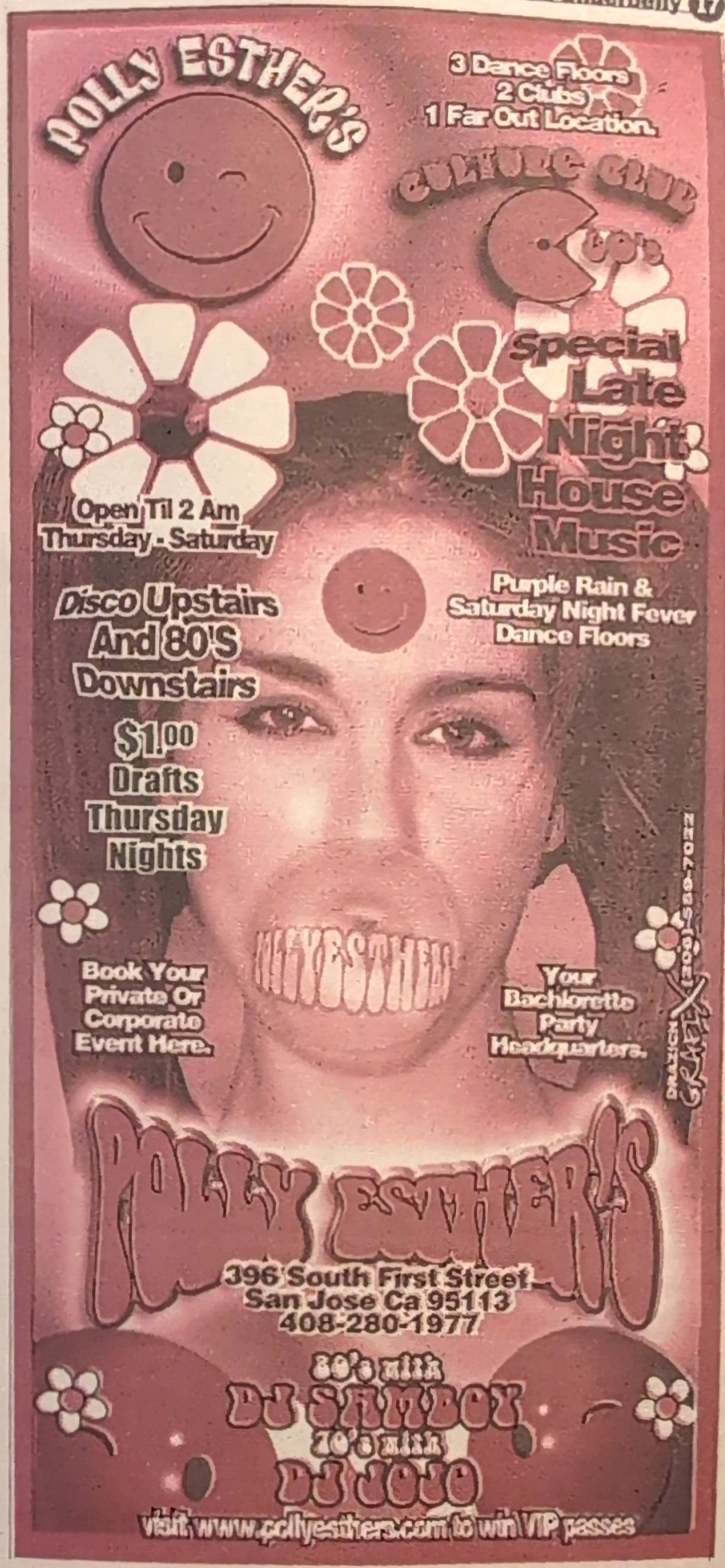
Mme. X described her work in the field of Elvismania. She had joined Elvis organizations in San Jose and environs to get a better understanding of the phenomenon, finding, among other things, that most believers refuse to believe Elvis took drugs or engaged in other mischievous acts. She spoke of a woman who had acquired an Elvis jumpsuit—which she kept behind bulletproof glass and worshipped. X's most harrowing Elvis moment was at The Bold Knight in Sunnyvale when the stage was stormed by drunken, and possibly hallucinating, middle-aged housewives, who savagely mauled an Elvis impersonator. Also disturbing were the annual Elvis Now events at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds where impersonators contested for best sounding Elvis and best look-alike Elvis. Mme. X recalls that the look-alikes resembled old fat debauched Elvis, while the sound-alikes took after the young innocent one. Another notable event was The Traveling Elvis Museum. X stumbled into this event by accident, when visiting the San Antonio Shopping Center in Mountain View. Serendipity.

On a truly eccentric tangent, the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds has been home to an annual Gun-Cat show, an event I have actually seen signs for—on telephone poles in Milpitas—but couldn't quite believe. X said it was true, one-half of a convention hall displaying guns, the other half cats. Is this possible?

I admired Mme. X's full-throttled approach to "getting the story"—though joining Elvis fan clubs does seem a bit extreme. A more dangerous variant of Hunter S. Thompson's ploy of hooking up with the Hell's Angels? And could I embrace the technique and infiltrate myself into the San Jose Redevelopment Agency? Probably not. Although "preservationists" are invited to the meetings, gadflies and deconstructionists are discouraged. I would have to disguise myself as a heartless developer to gain access. And brutt about tearing down the St. Claire Club to put up high-rise apartments that only members of the St. Claire Club could afford. Among other atrocities.

Final note: Mme. X maintains that Vahl's serves the best garlic bread in town.

Eric A. Carlson



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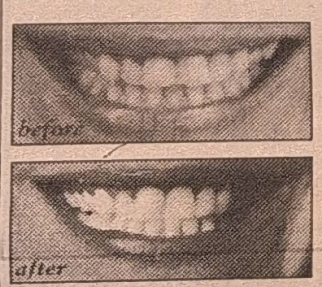

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Gov. PUBLIC

Power Hungry

California's energy crisis clearly could pull the plug on Gov. **Gray Davis'** political career. But it also isn't doing anything to recharge the popularity of San Jose Mayor **Ron Gonzales.** Gonzo has repeatedly been spanked by the *Mercury News* editorial board and state lawmakers for opposing a proposed power plant in Coyote Valley. And a new countywide poll done on behalf of Calpine Corp. and Bechtel—the companies behind the proposed Metcalf Energy Center—indicates that some voters think the mayor could be doing a better job to address the problem. . . . Pollster **Jim Moore** surveyed 500 registered county voters in mid-February and asked, "Are you generally satisfied or dissatisfied with how San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales is currently addressing the state's electricity crisis?" Of those polled, 29 percent responded they were satisfied with Gonzo's performance; 35 percent were dissatisfied and 36 percent had no opinion. . . . But what really caught Eye's attention were the mayor's not so great overall approval ratings: 44 percent of polled voters had a favorable opinion of him, 28 percent had an unfavorable opinion, and 28 percent had no opinion. The political rule of thumb is that, ideally, favorables should double the number of unfavorables. At the beginning of Gonzales' term, mayoral staffers boasted of his favorable ratings in the high 60s and single digit negatives. The latest numbers suggest that Gonzales—considered unbeatable after the November election in which numerous ballot measures and candidates he backed won—is far from invincible. Clearly, the October revelation of an office romance cost the mayor a few points. But now Gonzo detractors may look to exploit his position on the energy plant as his Achilles heel. There are some signs that high energy boosters have been candidate-shopping, if only to turn up the heat on the independent-minded mayor. Failed congressional candidate and former councildude **Jerry Estruth**, a backer of the Metcalf plant, is mulling a mayoral run. "People keep talking to me [about running]," Estruth says. "I won't say it's out of the question."

Power Outage: A new poll suggests San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales isn't as politically invulnerable as everyone thinks he is.

Mr. Mother

So what's **Jim Cunneen** up to these days? Not a heckuva a whole lot. The newly unemployed former assemblyman has been spending a lot of time around his Almaden Valley home playing Mr. Mom while his attorney wife, **Jennifer**, brings home the dough. "I'm enjoying time off with my family," Jimbo enthuses. "It's nice to be off the 'bubble machine.'" Cunneen reveals that he has no plans to work in the Bush administration or in any other public sector job. "It's time for me to spend some time outside of government," he reasons. Then again, he acknowledges that he's talked to **Rick White** of TechNet—high-tech's government lobbying arm—"to discuss more than one position possibility." . . . Last week, Eye speculated that Cunneen might be a logical replacement for **Ruben Barrales**, who's has been tapped for a job as a Bush adviser in D.C., as *jefe* of Joint Venture: Silicon Valley. Cunneen is a favorite son of Joint Venture founders **Jim** and **Becky Morgan**, having worked for both of them at different times during his career. But Cuneen assures us he hasn't spoken to anyone about joining JV, "though, I've just returned to town" from a family vacation.

Historic Giant

Why was San Jose Mayor Emeritus **Tom McEnery** talking to Major League Baseball Commissioner **Bud Selig** earlier this month? According to the Macster, he tried to explain to Selig the history of how baseball owners gave the Giants territorial rights over San Jose and turned SJ into "a colony." Territorial rights have become a major league issue again because if Selig rules that the Giants have a legit claim to the South Bay, the Oakland A's won't be able to relocate down here. The Giants' claim to San Jose was formalized in 1992 when then-Mayor **Susan Hammer** unsuccessfully tried to persuade voters to pay for a new ballpark for the team. McEnery, unbiased historian that he is, modestly pointed out to Selig that discussions with the Giants really began in 1985 during *his* mayoral tenure. "He [Selig] listened very politely," recalls McEnery, who managed to persuade Selig to commit to giving his historical lesson some "consideration." . . . Still, Eye wonders why the ex-mayor of all people was waxing historic with Selig. Did fellow Bellarmine alumnus **Steve Schott Sr.**, co-owner of the A's, ask the Macster to weigh in? McEnery will only say, "A friend of mine asked me. I'll leave it at that." Well, that rules out most of the current administration.

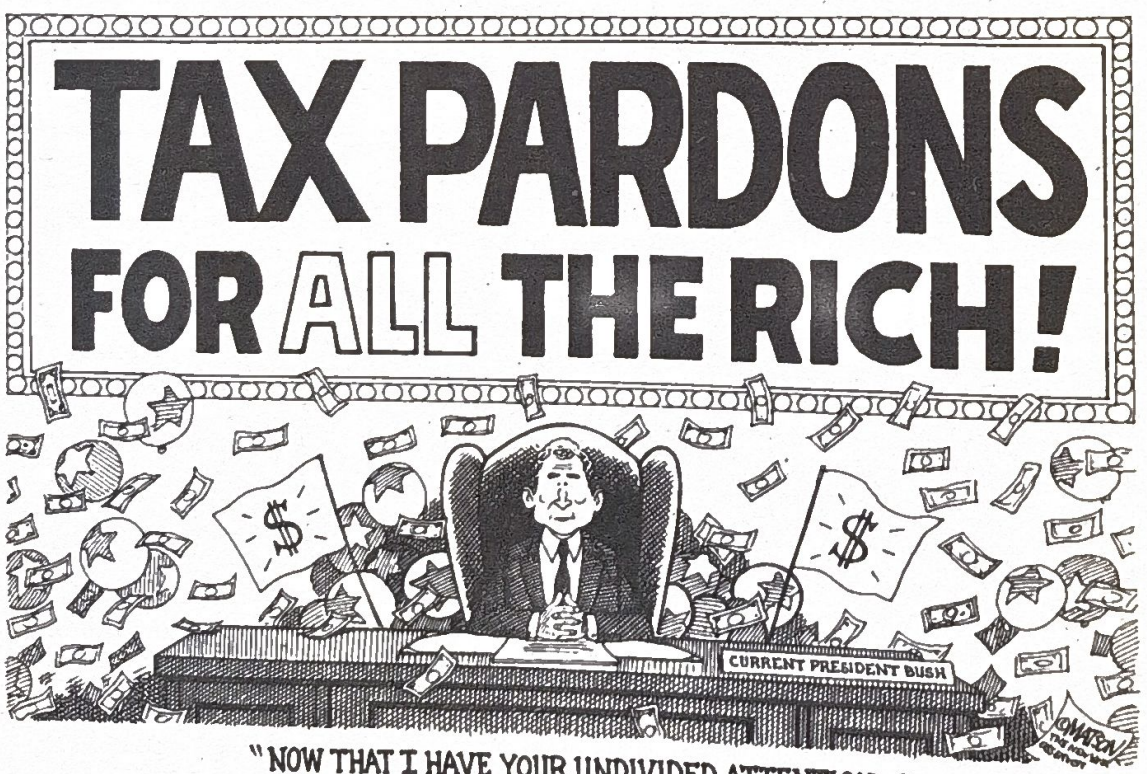
BILLY BLOB

As was reported in this space first, super stud **Billy Bob Thornton** was due to steer his way into San Jose's Cinequest 11 to pick up the Maverick Spirit Award Feb. 24. But just two hours before his 5pm showtime—and after insisting that his hotel room be located close to a gym—Thornton called in sick, claiming a "family emergency." **Lyla Ross**, Cinequest's publicity director, swears that the night turned out "totally positive." For instance, a cheese-and-crackers party for lesser-known directors ran long, giving the filmies more face time with their pals in the press. "One little party turned into one *big* party," gushes Ross. Still, partiers had plenty of fun making up rumors to explain the Bobster's MIA status. To wit: A Camera Theatre gossip hound said BB was peeved his food basket didn't include the color orange.

Drawing a Card

Last week, the *Mercury News* announced that it is endorsing architect **Richard Tanaka** for the open east San Jose city council seat for taking the strongest position against card clubs among the three candidates. "We really don't need card clubs," the *Merc* quoted him as saying. But the *Merc* neglected to mention that Tanaka was a fiscal beneficiary of the card rooms. Tanaka acknowledges that he "worked as a production person on the [architectural] drawings" for the Garden City card club on Saratoga Avenue many moons ago. "I don't have any vested interest [in the club]," he protests. . . . By the by, does anyone realize there is a special election on March 6? Tanaka and his two opponents, jeweler **Bud LoMonaco** and hackde-camp **Nora Campos**, have run stealth campaigns, eschewing publicity and candidate debates. Campaign experts are predicting a 10 percent turnout, meaning the candidate who best targets his or her backers and gets them to the polls wins or makes an April runoff. And despite Campos' formidable war chest—the most recently available finance report shows her with nearly twice as much cash on hand as either LoMonaco or Tanaka—practically no one thinks she can win outright next week.

R.J. MATSON



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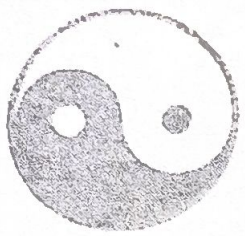

Tip of the needle

SEEKING BLISS,
I WAS MASSAGED FOR HOURS.
I STRETCHED MY LIMBS WITH YOGA.
I FLOATED IN AN ISOLATION TANK.
IT WAS TORTURE.

BY DANN MCDORMAN

I'm coming off my trial period as a New Age convert and I can't believe the things I've done. I've chatted amiably as a stranger rubbed hot oil onto my buttocks. I've allowed a novice to insert needles into my flesh. I've been jerked out of meditation by a prayer bell. I've floated naked in 800 pounds of dissolved salt. As Keanu might say, "Whoa."

The way this ordeal began is that I've always thought there are certain things about California that an outsider (even one who's lived here several years) should steadfastly refuse to accept. I'm talking pineapple on pizza. Sentences beginning with "Dude." And most especially, anything that even remotely smacks of New Age healing or "holistic" therapies.

But recently I started to wonder if I was being intolerant or close-minded. I wondered if I wasn't giving these dreamy holistic types a fair shake. I wondered, in short, if I was being a jerk.

So I decided to spend some time living life as a New Age believer. I hit the road to find the best and the brightest alternative healing that the Bay Area has to offer, visiting two spas, a yoga studio, a sensory deprivation tank and (most frighteningly) an acupuncturist-in-training. In every case, I was coming at the experience completely fresh, starry-eyed, a New Age virgin. I attempted to be as receptive as possible to new ideas, new ways of thinking. I tried to put my Bullshit Meter on low. I did my best to accept that maybe—just maybe—there's more to life than what you can glean from an X-ray machine or an EKG. The results, quite honestly, freaked me out. Dude.

Continued on next page

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I of the Needle

Continued from previous page

HEY, HEY, I'M A MONKEY

MY FIRST FORAY into the brave new (for me) world of New Age health is a yoga class at Tim Thompson's Monkey Yoga Shala in Oakland. Tim is a longhaired guy with the thin, taut musculature of a young Chuck Norris. Before class begins I introduce myself, warning him that I'm a total newbie.

"Then we'll start you off like all newbies," Tim says. "Do some pull-ups. As many as you can." He indicates a bar dismayingly high overhead, maybe 8 feet off the floor. This doesn't seem right. I want to explain to Tim that, no, there seems to be some mistake; I'm here for the relaxed breathing, the slight stretching and the faux exercise, the saying of "Om."

"Come on," Tim grins. He already has the air of a drill instructor about him. I jump up and manage five measly reps by myself, and maybe another 20 when Tim places his hands under my feet for support. He nods approval and I release my grip. My chest is heaving; my biceps are trembling like the spindly legs of a newborn colt. Is this yoga or basic training?

For the next hour and 45 minutes, I endure some of the most exhilarating, gut-wrenching, hernia-inducing exercises I've ever been exposed to. I had yoga all wrong: this is a workout. It's hard. It hurts. Except for the man next to me who's about 6 feet 4 inches and 220 pounds, I'm easily the least flexible person in class. When Tim says, "Elevate your feet and hold them steady in the air," mine are the ones that hit the mat first. When Tim says, "Find two classmates and have them pull you apart in an inverted crab," my eyes nearly pop out from the strain. When Tim says, "Twist your palms and slide them through your legs and behind your back" in a way certain to snap my elbows like twigs, I look around in disbelief. Tim notices immediately.

"Dann," he says, not unkindly, "if you can't do it, don't." Good advice.

My large neighbor seems to nearly pass out and has to leave the room for some air. The woman on my other side farts, once. I pretend not to notice. It gets so steamy in the room that my glasses start to fog up. At some point, Tim asks us to put our hands together in prayer fashion and we say "Om," followed by a bunch more words that I don't understand, ending with "Om" again. I begin to feel part of the class, like I belong. There's a solidarity in doing this. Making a noise together, deep and impressive. Om. I think of the part in *Close Encounters* where thousands of Hindus intone the sounds--messages—from space. I think of a line from DeLillo (*Mao II*): "The future belongs to crowds." There's something comforting and worrisome in this, hearing your voice swallowed by others. Om.

The latter part of the class is the warm-down, the less arduous stretching, the closed eyes and th breathing. This is the point whe all at our most vulnerable, mo to suggestion. This is when th Age stuff kicks in.

"Now you see how pleasant is," Tim tells us as we lie on ou breathing. "Life is full of pain, th you're feeling now. Death is rest.

And: "Pull from your root chak base of everything, all your energ

And: "If you feel weak, exha that's OK. Only when you're we you begin to gain strength."

It still sounds like bullshit to m I'm so tired I don't mind the chak at all. When I emerge into the cool air, I'm feeling good, refreshed hausted. The edges of the evenin crisp and distinct. At the supermar I buy five bananas, three plums, peaches and a full-size Gatorade. night, I sleep like a baby.

SOFT, OILY, LOOSE

THE NEXT ADVENTUR at the Claremont Reso Spa, a gleaming white cha rising out of the Berkeley like the site of an Ag Christie murder. It's consistently ed one of the best urban spas i country. Clint Eastwood, Al Pa and Bette Midler are among the ce who drop by for scrubs and massa and other such treatments. I'm sch uled for something called the "Re ancer." I'm not sure what it is, bu seems to involve the phrase "esse oils." And herbs. Can't forget herbs. "Herbs and essential oils."

As I drive up I see important-see ing, incredibly well-tanned men in c sual suits hop out of luxury cars a toss their keys to the valet. Up on balcony, couples in matching whi sweaters link their arms around ea other's waists and gaze contentedly the sunset like it's a private screenin All around me, I sense, are the Beau ful People. If they're not naturall beautiful, then money has made them so. That's what money is for. To ma the plain and make it beautiful.

The receptionist at the spa desk asks me to fill out an introductory survey, sort of like the thing bad dating services use to find you a compatible mate. PHYSICAL FRAME. I confidently tick off medium, well proportioned. MIND. Definitely intelligent, sharp, focused. ELIMINATION ... excuse me? That's right, ELIMINATION. Dry, hard, constipation? No, I wouldn't say that, pre cisely ... thick, oily, heavy, slow? Ex not that either. I can't believe I'm doing this. I can't believe I'm going to hand over this confession to a stranger. I eventually mark soft, oily, loose, based on that morning. Just what the hell do they need that information for? What, exactly, is the Rebalancer?

The men's and women's lockers are split up, like in a high school gym. This is a relief. I was worried that it might be a unisex facility, naked people with bodies much better than mine walking around unashamed, arms swinging

Continued on page 24

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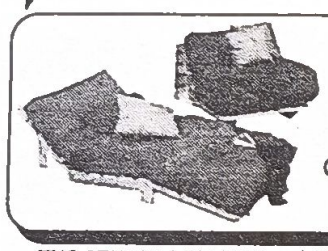
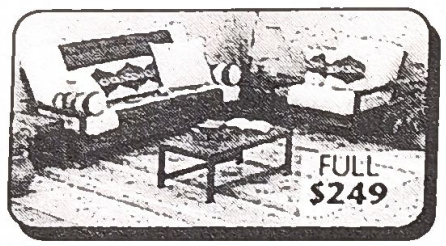
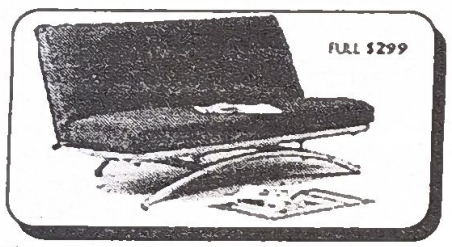


THE STUDIO LOUNGER w/6" FUTON

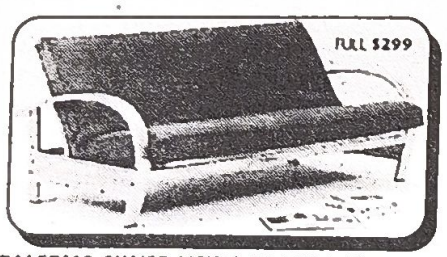


HARDWOOD ALBANY FRAME W/6" FUTON

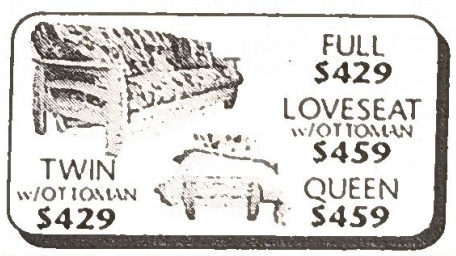
THE BERKELEY – W/6" FUTON



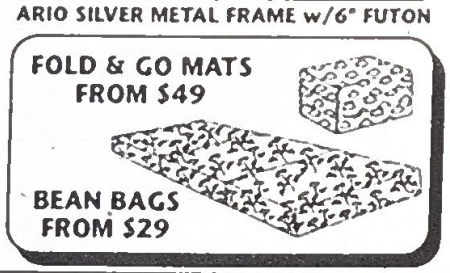
ARIO SILVER METAL FRAME w/6" FUTON



PALERMO SILVER METAL FRAME W/6" FUTON



THE TANGO – MUSCLE BODY FRAME W/6" FUTON



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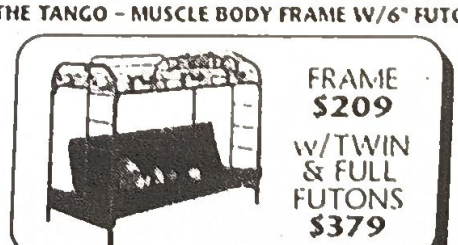

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Kara Brown

New Balance: In the Rebalancer treatment, author Dann McDorman's third eye and marma points get special treatment.

I of the Needle

Continued from page 22

freely, at peace with their chakras and essential oils. Juan Carlos, the attendant, guides me to my locker.

"I leave my clothes here?"

"Yes."

"All my clothes?"

Juan Carlos shrugs. "That's up to you."

I pop open my locker. There's an FAQ list taped to the door. WHAT DO I WEAR DURING MY MASSAGE? it asks. Aha! "Whatever makes you most comfortable," it says. "Most guests prefer to wear nothing, however some guests are more comfortable wearing underwear."

I decide I'm definitely Some Guests. I keep my boxers on and don a white terrycloth robe, just like you see in movies. I'm led to a small room with a massage table and introduced to Christiane, my massage therapist. "Oh, you'll have to take them off," Christiane says reprovingly when I mention the boxers. "This gets messy." Messy? Messy how? I remember the survey. Soft, oily, loose?

I slip naked under a sheet. Christiane starts me off with a minifacial. Moist pads are placed over my eyes and then hot oil is dripped over my forehead, onto what Christiane explains is my third eye. This continues for 10 minutes. Drip, drip, drip. I don't know if Chinese water torture is real or an orientalist myth, but this is what I imagine it would be like. Drip, drip. Light instrumental music plays in the background. Then Christiane rubs a few different kinds of creams over my face and massages my pressure points ("Marma points," she calls them). Finally she packs hot towels around my head and wipes the goop off.

So much for the face. Now for the body. And this is where I get a little nervous.

Let me be totally honest here. What's the primary fear of every able-bodied, non-Viagra male who has a nude massage? The tent pole, of course. The unexpected readiness. State of alert at Defcon 5, sir. We await your orders.

I entertain various scenarios in my head. Would I ignore it? Would I crack a joke? Would that make it better or worse? Ignore it, I decide, definitely ignore it. Oh god. Could I really ignore it? That would be so embarrassing. Would I jump up and leave? Is that done? Surely it's happened before. She's a professional. She can handle it. She's probably got some stock joke. An icebreaker to put my mind (and whatever else) at ease. It'll be OK. Really.

Of course, by the time I've reached a conclusion about how to act in the event of an emergency, Christiane has already started. To my relief, the object in question behaves itself quite well. This part of the Rebalancer consists of rubbing a gritty brown paste all over my arms, legs and torso. Christiane allows it to dry, then she scrapes it off with a kind of brillo pad. Finally, she massages hot oil deep into my skin.

While she's doing this, Christiane and I talk about the spa, my job, the six years she spent in India. It feels a bit like chatting with your barber or hairstylist. Christiane is very careful to explain everything she's doing. Turns out that the Rebalancer is part of an ancient Indian healing tradition called Ayurveda, and that none other than Mr. Deepak Chopra—the irritating infomercial guru and bestselling author—is its main proponent here in America. In Ayurveda, everybody falls into one of three doshas, or mind-body types. That's why Christiane needed to know that I was soft, oily and loose: It helped her figure out my dosha (*pitta*, just FYI) and what kind of treatment I needed.

After an hour and a half, Christiane and I are finished. I'm a sticky, supremely relaxed mess. Christiane advises me to go sit in the steam room for a while, to allow the remaining oil

to penetrate and unclog my pores. Then she smiles, pours me some herbal tea and exits quietly. I feel like I should leave a tip, but my wallet is in the locker with the rest of my clothes. I agonize about this for days.

As I drive away from the Claremont, leaving behind the Beautiful People and their essential oils, I try to honestly assess the Rebalancer. Do I feel better? Sure. Was Christiane good? Incredible. Would I have gone if it wasn't free? (It normally costs $135.) Not a chance.

EVERYBODY MUST GET STONED

"YOU'RE A GOOD breather," Becky says, running her hands across my inner thigh.

Gulp. "I've had plenty of practice," I want to say, but don't, because it seems too smart-aleck, too Woody Allen. So I just nod weakly and opt instead for a Beavis-like "Yeah. Huh-huh."

I'm lying on my back in Palo Alto's Watercourse Way, a spa stop in my long, strange trip through California dreamland. Once again, I'm nude, and once again, I'm totally uncomfortable about it. (Clearly, I have some issues.) My masseuse this time around is named Becky. With my consent, she's preparing to drop hot, hot stones onto my bare flesh.

Becky practices hot stone massage, part of something called "LaStone Therapy." Basically, LaStone involves alternately hot and cold stones rubbed all over your body. How hot? 140 degrees Fahrenheit, about halfway between normal body temperature and the boiling point of water. How cold? Just above freezing. Yikes.

I show up early at Watercourse Way and sign a form indicating, among other things, that I understand all massages are nonsexual in nature. Then I sit down in the hall to wait. After a few minutes of eavesdropping on the conversation of the two women next to me, both of them cancer patients who visit the spa each morning before chemotherapy, Becky invites me into the "stone room" and we get down to business. The session begins like a normal massage: I strip and Becky turns on the music, Enya or Yanni or somebody off one of those *Pure Moods* albums you can buy on TV. She then squirts oil into her palm (a sound which, after these two spa visits, I'll probably fetishize the rest of my life) and rubs it vigorously all over my body. Now we're ready to rock 'n' roll, so to speak.

The hot stones are smooth, charcoal-gray pieces of basalt; Becky keeps them simmering in a doohickey that resembles a portable electric roaster. The cold stones are white pieces of marble, kept in an ordinary picnic cooler filled with ice water. Becky begins hot, with large, flat stones placed underneath me along my spine. Yeeeeeaaaooo! "Is that OK?" she asks.

"Sure," I answer, totally lying. But as Becky places more stones on my chest,

Continued on next page

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l of the Needle

Continued from previous page

I realize that after the initial touch—when the skin cries out bloody murder—you begin not to feel it. Becky seems to use the stones mostly as massage aids, deeply kneading into my muscles. I close my eyes and get into it; the hardness and heat of the stones seem to work especially well with the larger-group muscles like the thigh and pectorals. Then comes the part I've been dreading.

"I'm about to start with the cold stones," Becky warns me.

"OK."

"It helps if you breathe."

"OK."

The marble touches my shoulder, cold—so fucking cold—that I begin to giggle uncontrollably. "That's a common reaction," Becky informs me. "Like when you're a kid and you first turn on the hose." Breathe, Dann, breathe, I tell myself as the icy stone continues down my body. Remember what Mr. Miyagi told the Karate Kid: in through the nose, out through the mouth. Breathe. "You're doing fine," Becky says. Then she flips me like a burger and goes to work on the other side.

At the end of the session, Becky lights some sage (LaStone supposedly takes its inspiration from some Native American rituals) and leaves me to get dressed. I'm feeling super-good; all my muscles are noodly and relaxed. Maybe it's the sage, but I'm also feeling light-headed and weirdly discombobulated: I'm wondering if it's safe for me to drive home.

Clearly, something about stone massage hits the spot.

Physiologically, my best guess about why it works is that the warm stones make the blood rush up to the surface, in order to ventilate the excess heat, and that the cold stones make the blood rush away from the skin, in order to protect the organs. All this rushing up and down and up and down probably gets you a little high. Spiritually, I haven't the foggiest idea why or if it works. Mary Hannigan, the visionary or nut-job (depending on your belief system) who invented LaStone back in 1993, writes that "you will experience a connection to Body, Mind, and Soul," and that it "brings you to a sensation of wholeness cradled and nurtured by Mother Earth." Well, I don't know about all that. LaStone seems basically like a better and more elaborate version of old-fashioned massage. Is it worth the $145? For someone on a journalist's salary, no way. But if your stock portfolio is still (miraculously) robust, go for it.

ALTERED STATEMENT

"ARE YOU FAMILIAR with altered states?" Lynette asks me, by way of introducing me to sensory deprivation.

"Nope." Not the natural kind, anyway.

"Then you're in for a wild ride."

Lynette runs the Flotation Center out of a nondescript apartment hidden away in San Francisco's Castro district. The Center contains two sensory deprivation tanks, each filled with 10 inches of water in which 800 pounds of Epsom salt have been dissolved. The salt raises the density of the water so that a human body can float perfectly even on the surface. This virtually eliminates your sensation of gravity—the water is pushing you up as much as the earth is pulling you down.

"You're like the piece of fruit in the jello mold," explains Lynette. The water is kept at skin temperature (approximately 93 degrees), so your sense of touch is minimized, and there's no light or sound, so your eyes and ears have nothing to latch on to either. The idea behind sensory deprivation is that in the absence of other stimulus, your mind has the freedom to expand and think outside its normal channels. In short doses, like here at the Flotation Center, this leads to enhanced creativity and relaxation. But if endured for days or weeks, sensory deprivation can produce severe emotional trauma or even madness (the KGB purportedly used it to extract information from spies and dissidents).

'Does it hurt?' I ask. Bobby eyes me coolly, as if trying to appraise whether I'd bolt out of the room if he gave me the wrong answer.

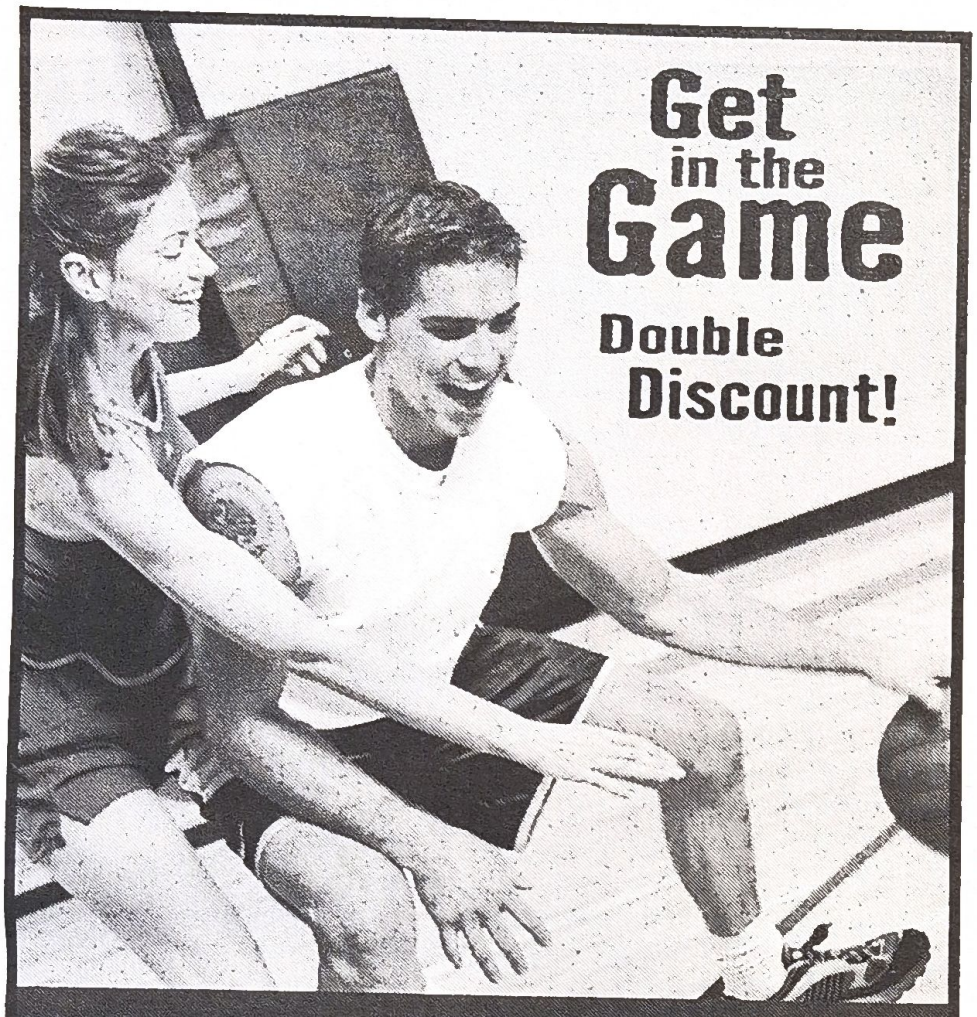
I'm here because it sounds cool, and because of that *Simpsons* episode where Homer and Lisa go into sensory deprivation tanks.

"I've got it on tape," Lynette grins.

After a brief orientation, she shows me into the room containing my tank, which looks like a leftover prop from a '60s or '70s sci-fi flick—think *Logan's Run* or the early scenes of *2001*. I strip naked, insert my earplugs and clamber in, letting the trapdoor shut behind me. Instant and total darkness. I wave my hand in front of my face. Nada. I lay back and begin floating like a medieval compass, a needle on water. If someone blindfolded you, packed your ears with gauze and threw you in the middle of the Dead Sea, it would feel a little like this.

I suddenly become intensely aware of my breathing. "It can sound like there's a lion in there with you," Lynette had said. In the absence of all other sound, my breathing expands, elbows every-

Continued on page 28



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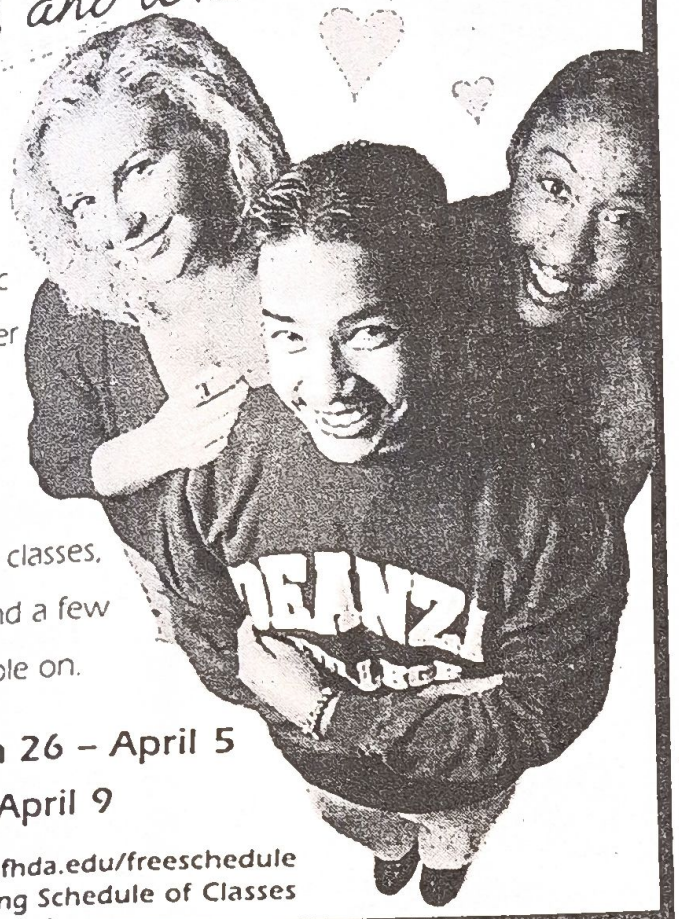

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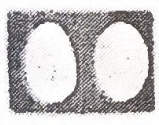

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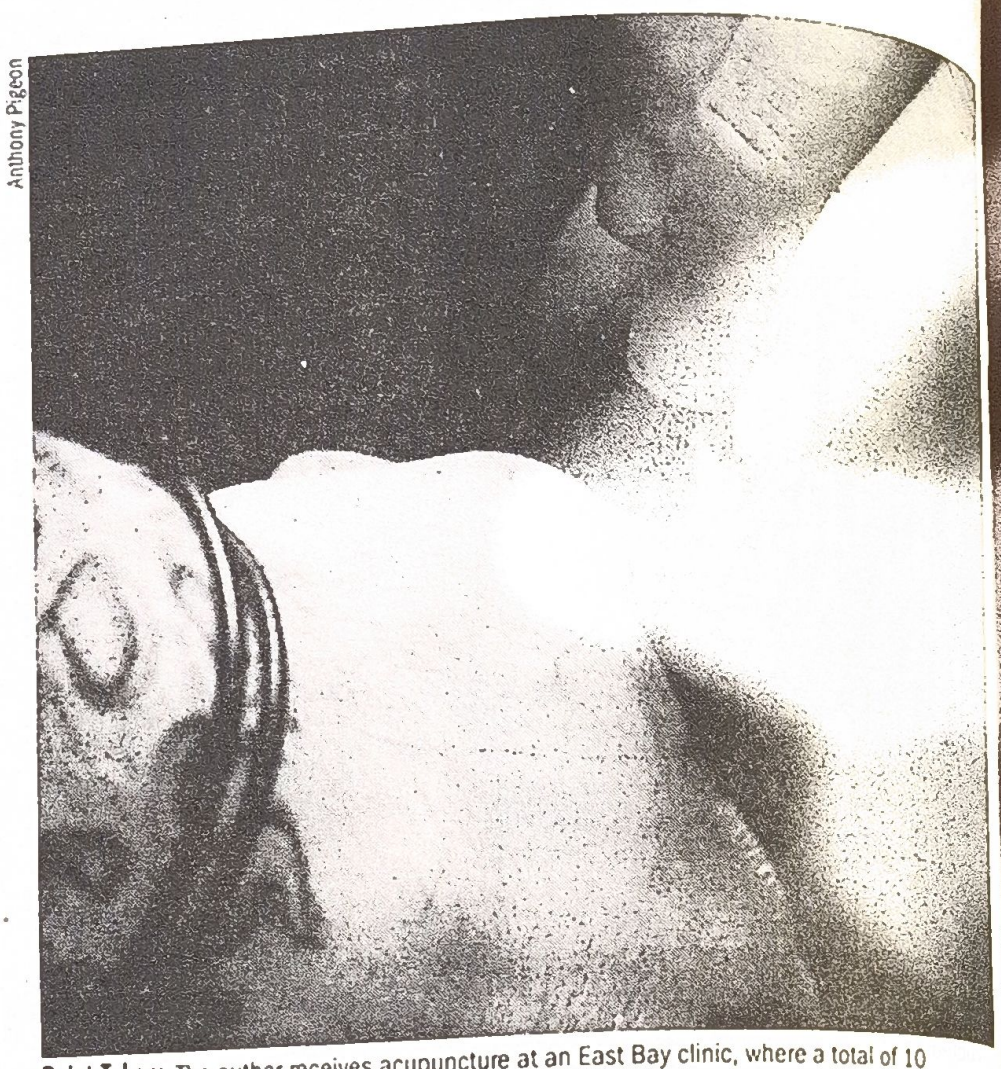

Point Taken: The author receives acupuncture at an East Bay clinic, where a total of 10 hair-thin needles were inserted for relaxing effect.

I of the Needle

Continued from page 26

thing else in my consciousness out of the way. I am bronchial. I am Darth Vader. My lungs are the engine of the universe.

Occasionally I float into one of the walls. The slightest flicker of my toe or pinky is enough to send me drifting away. It's impossible to track your movements inside the tank; you'll think you're down where your feet were but then your head will bump into the wall above you.

Time passes. I'm so starved for stimulus that I make little baby-gaga noises to myself, just to hear the sound. I hum "The Sultans of Swing," by Dire Straits. I giggle. I splash. I say things like "Cock-a-doodle-doo!" According to Lynette, some people have wildly creative and intelligent ideas when they're in the tank. Some don't.

I wish I had a pen and paper, I think. Although the paper would get wet. And I'd need one of those pens that astronauts use that write upside down. Although it's dark, so I wouldn't be able to see. I could attach a little light to the pen. But then I wouldn't be sensory deprived. If I was really good I could write with an Etch-a-Sketch. Like that kid who did a portrait of Michael Jordan using an Etch-a-Sketch. He got on TV. I wish I was on TV.

About this time I realize that my testicles are floating. Not floating like they might in a bath, but really floating, bobbing up and down like a cork. I experiment by lowering my buttocks; my testicles stay right where they are, like buoys from a sunken ship. To say this feels peculiar would be an understatement.

Eventually I settle down. I stop thinking about time, about my testicles, about much of anything, in fact. I'm simply There. In a sensory deprivation tank, you gradually slip into something called a theta state, which is that gray void between sleeping and waking, the 30 seconds after a nap when you don't know where you are. Lynette told me that many people experience auditory and visual hallucinations when they're in theta state, but I don't get any. Maybe it's like pot—it doesn't always work the first time.

I'm in the tank for just over an hour. When Lynette knocks on the tank, I get out and shower off the salt, a big goofy grin plastered across my face. I feel alert, re-energized, ridiculously hungry. When I get back to the office, comments are made.

"Looking good!"

"You should do this all the time."

I nod thoughtfully.

THE NEEDLES AND THE DAMAGE DONE

THE GRAND FINALE in my increasingly weird trip through the New Age universe is the one that I've considered all along to be the Big Kahuna, the granddaddy of all alternative therapies, the one that really put things on the map: acupuncture. And this presents a problem. Seeing as how acupuncture is considered real medicine and all, covered by real insurance companies, I'm worried that an acupuncturist might not appreciate me showing up mostly just to "see what it's like." It would be akin to schedul-

ing a prostate exam simply because you enjoy how it feels.

I fret about this for a few days, until the solution leaps out at me from the Yellow Pages: "Free Acupuncture Session by Our Supervised Student Interns." Eureka! Inside a minute I'm dialing the number for Berkeley's Meiji College of Oriental Medicine and setting up an appointment. Only later do I begin to worry about the fact that I'll be attended by, well, a student. Someone who just needs a warm body to practice on. You always hear horror stories about some cheapskate who went to a barber college to get a free haircut and ended up with a raunchy 'do. But hair grows back. If someone fucks up sticking needles into your head, what then? What then?!?

The first thing that surprises me about the Meiji clinic is how clinical it actually is. Pink and yellow patient records line the walls. People with lab coats and clipboards bustle to and fro. I might as well be at Kaiser. It's as if in their efforts to gain acceptance from the mainstream, the Meiji folks have become the very thing to which they're supposed to provide an alternative.

This suspicion is bolstered when I'm given several liability forms and a medical history questionnaire. I'm instructed to check off any health problems that I have now—or that I've ever had. I mark "Back Pain," a recurring condition which I attribute to horrific posture and sleeping on what is possibly the world's worst mattress. My pen hovers briefly over "Alcoholic" (this is not an ailment I'm certain I want cured) before marking "Acne/Skin Problems" (hey, I was a teenager too, once).

The next thing that surprises me about Meiji is Bobby, my acupuncturist. With broad shoulders and a fierce crewcut, he seems more like a guy who just barely missed the cut for the Oklahoma State football team than a third-year resident in an accredited acupuncture program. Bobby is so damn dependable-looking that when he says things like "Your chi is stagnating" and "Your kidney energy is out of balance," I find myself nodding gravely and wondering what I can do to beef up my chi. He begins by asking about various health factors that might relate to my back pain.

"Memory?"

"No complaints."

"Appetite?"

"Fine."

"Stool?"

Good grief. What is it about these people that they're all so fascinated with my stool? I desperately want to answer "Soft, oily, loose," but I can't quite bring myself to do it. Poor Bobby just wouldn't understand.

When our Q&A session is over, it's time to get on with the treatment, with what Bobby calls "the needling." I take off my shirt and pants and slip into a robe (again, very much like in a hospital). Only when I'm lying facedown on the table, heart aflutter, do I ask the question that I've been wanting—and dreading—to ask ever since I cooked up this hare-brained idea.

"Does it hurt?"

Bobby eyes me coolly, as if trying to appraise whether I'd bolt out of the room if he gave me the wrong answer.

"Yeah," he says finally. "But don't worry, it's tolerable."

The acupuncture needles are relatively small, maybe an inch and a half. They're individually wrapped for sanitation reasons. Bobby takes one out to show it to me.

"It's almost as thin as a hair," he says, flicking it with his finger so it bends. (A rapier is thin, too, I think; that doesn't make it any less deadly.) With a deft flick of the wrist, Bobby inserts the first needle into the meaty part of my hand between thumb and forefinger. It doesn't hurt at all until he pushes it in further, but even then it's just a deep, dull, achy kind of pain.

"OK, it's in," Bobby breathes.

I raise my head, eyes widening at this fucking needle, for Christ's sake, jutting out of my hand. "Oh boy." I quickly lower my head. Better not to see.

Bobby inserts a total of 10 needles in my body: two in each hand, two in my back, one behind each knee, and one on top of each foot. After insertion, Bobby manipulates each needle back and forth in order to start pooling the energy. He tells me to relax. He tells me to focus on my breathing. Then he leaves the room for 20 minutes to allow the needles to do their thing.

I don't feel anything except in my hands and forearms, which are going crazy. There's a weird sensation of thickness in the tissue, of warmth, of energy moving up and down my arm. Also intense tingling. Odd, heavy pressures at points distant from the needles.

The traditional Chinese explanation of acupuncture is that disease and pain are caused by blockages in the flow of chi (energy) around the body. By inserting needles into the body at specific points, the acupuncturist is able to unclog the body's channels (or meridians) and increase the flow of chi, thereby restoring you to perfect health.

I have my own theory. I think acupuncture is a function of the body's natural response to invasion by a foreign object. The body senses the needle, says the biological equivalent of "What the fuck?" and launches an army of antibodies or endorphins or whatever to repulse the invader. The mass production of this stuff, I believe, is good for what ails ya. Of course, some would argue this idea is essentially just as superstitious as the traditional Chinese explanation. I don't disagree. If you burrow down far enough, everything becomes a matter of faith, whether you're talking gluons or gravity or God.

When I'm finished, Bobby gives me a hearty handshake and a bag of herbal powder to make into a tea. I leave Meiji somewhat shaken, a bit freaked out by my hands, which still feel utterly disconnected from me. As I drive home, my hands on the steering wheel take on the character of a word that's been stared at too long—they don't mean anything. Listen boyo, I tell myself, you're out of your element. Stick to what you can handle. To the things that fit within your narrow and skewed view of How Things Work. Just suck down a beer or three, and from now on, leave the New Age stuff to the natives. M

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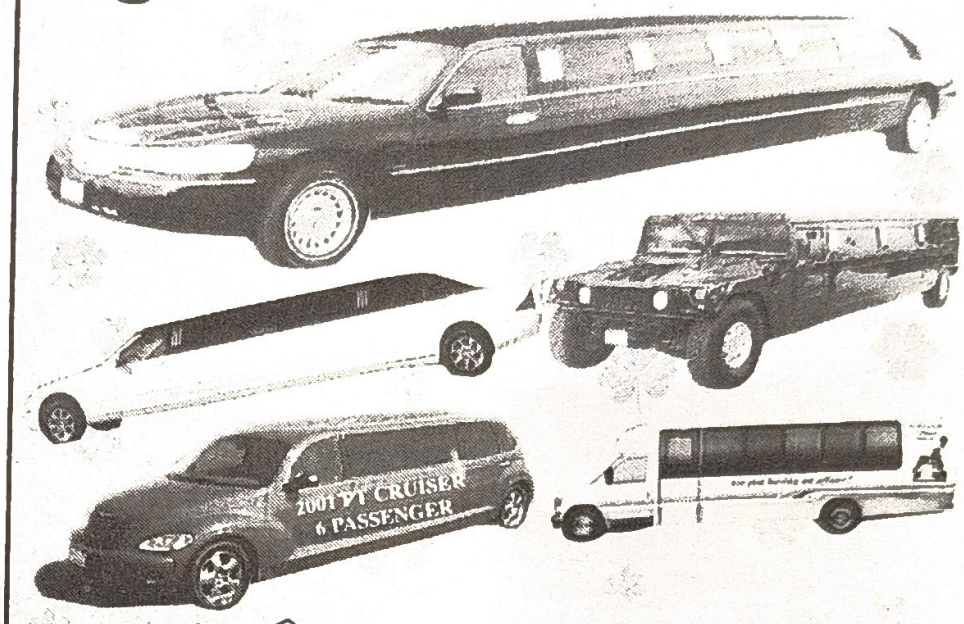

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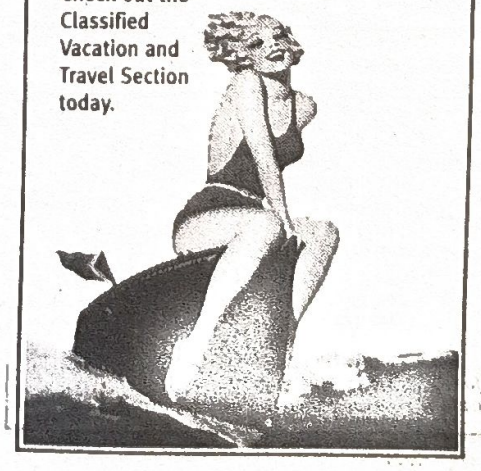

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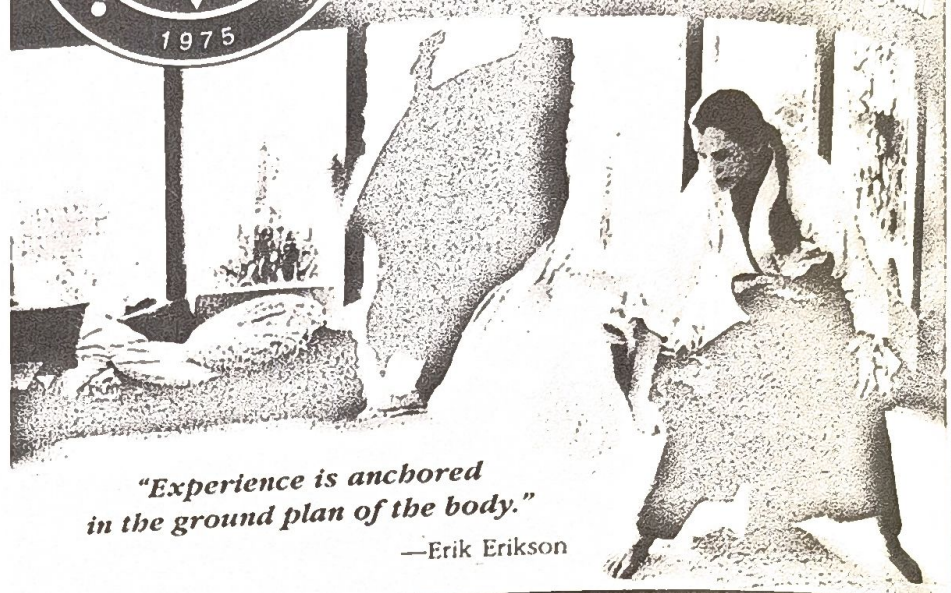

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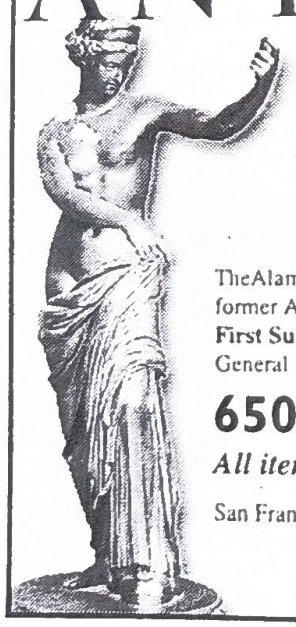

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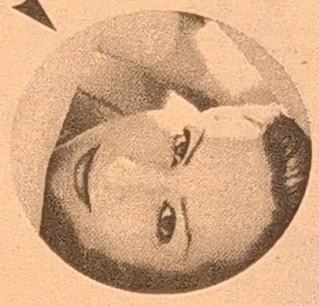

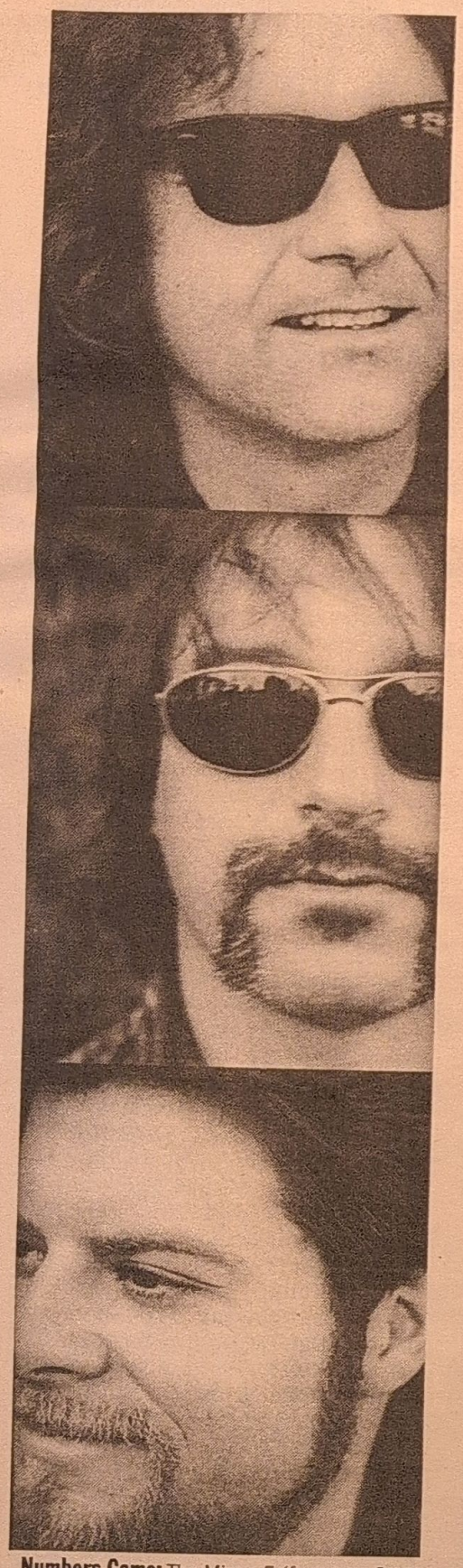

Numbers Game: The Minus 5 (from top, Scott McCaughey, Peter Buck and Barrett Martin) transmute and transform regularly, creating a 'virtual supergroup.'

Ghost Tarts And Dolphin Boys

Saratoga native Scott McCaughey of R.E.M. sums up his projects Minus Five and Young Fresh Fellows

By Gina Arnold

WHEN YOU SEE the words "Battle of the Bands, Tonight!" on a marquee, it invariably denotes crappy hard-rock acts in dark suburban nightclubs, both bearing names with umlauts placed dumbly over the consonants. My normal reaction is to flee the vicinity.

But the battle between the Minus Five and the Young Fresh Fellows is one fight worth listening to—if "fight" can be used to describe something so tuneful, so jolly and so chaotic. One phase of the battle will be enacted Saturday and Sunday nights (March 3–4), at the Ninth Annual Noise Pop Festival at the Bottom of the Hill in San Francisco, and although there won't be any actual bloodshed, things might get a little fevered.

The Minus Five are more of a supergroup—perhaps "virtual supergroup" is a better term—containing members of R.E.M., the Posies, the High Llamas and Mott the Hoople. The Young Fresh Fellows are a raucous Seattle outfit that has, in the course of a 20-year career, been called the best band in America by people in a position to know.

Both bands are led by Saratoga native Scott McCaughey, who is currently the spare guitar player in R.E.M. Under his benevolent (if slightly crazed) auspices, the two bands have just released a double-CD package titled *The Minus 5 vs. The Young Fresh Fellows* (UNI/Mammoth).

One CD is the Fellows' latest offering, *Because We Hate You*. The other is the Minus 5's third LP, *Let the War Against Music Begin*. Both discs are brilliantly, if misleadingly, titled, since neither hate nor war is part of the paradigm here. Indeed, the mean-

Continued on next page

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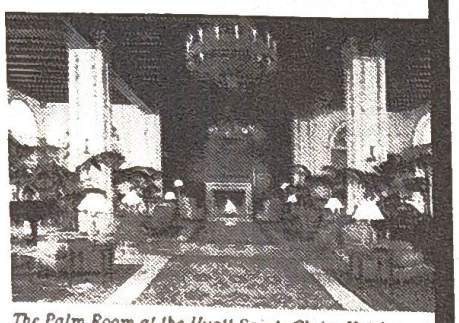

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McCaughey

Continued from previous page

est statement on the entire set is "Typing all these whiny words is really pretty sick."

Any way you look at it, the package (which can be purchased for the price of a single CD) is a great buy. The fact that both discs are fantastic is just a bonus. Although both CDs feature songs penned by McCaughey, their sounds are entirely different.

The Fellows play sloppy, lo-fi, three-chord garage rock that sounds as if the Sonics met the Banana Splits for a rousing round of Kinks and MC5 covers. The Minus Five play bubbly, orchestral, mellow-toned pop, deeply influenced (this time around) by the Beach Boys' *Pet Sounds*.

They are the end result of a career—or noncareer—that has taken McCaughey from a garage band called Hannibal's Chorus Boys at West Valley Junior College all the way to the heights of stardom with R.E.M. Indeed, few people have followed such a varied artistic path, especially when you consider that the variations have taken place simultaneously, rather than in the more normal upward, or downward, trajectory.

That is to say, most bands start small and get big, and then get small again. McCaughey just belongs to a number of bands, some as big as you can get, like R.E.M., some medium-sized, like the Young Fresh Fellows, and some—like the Minus Five and his other project, Tuatara—that practically exist only in McCaughey's imagination, becoming flesh and blood once every few years, then fading out until the next time he can get the money and talent together to do another CD.

ONE WOULD THINK that having so many rock bands would take a lot of energy or organization, but McCaughey claims he possesses neither quality—just a lot of time and patience. The Minus Five, McCaughey explains, "is what I do when I'm not doing something that pays money or is a priority. And to some extent, the Young Fresh Fellows are like that, too, now. We don't even practice now, we just record and play gigs every six months or so."

Both records, he points out, have been finished for more than 15 months and contain songs that are four or five years old. According to the jacket, the project involves 22 different members and six recording studios in four different cities. Such is the magic of modern times, however, that McCaughey himself never left his own basement. He just mailed tapes of his music to people he was interested in working with—"usually just [on] guitar and vocals"—and then listened with interest to what they sent back.

It seems to me like a dangerous way to work. What if he didn't like the results? Think of the awkward conversation that would result.

"Yeah, I worry about that," he admits, "but the people I ask—I'm pretty confident they'll do something I like. Luckily, I have been absolutely thrilled with everything I've gotten."

A case in point was the keyboard work of Morgan Fisher, a former member of Mott the Hoople who currently lives in Japan and plays with a Japanese band called Heat Wave. "He made a solo record called *Miniatures* that was all these one-minute long songs by different artists. He did one in 1980 and one in 2000, with 60 different artists on it, and I was a big fan of it," says McCaughey, who is something of a rock & roll historian.

"Peter [Buck] and I did a track for it, and we hung out with him when we were over in Japan with R.E.M. I sent him a bare bones of a song with noises on it, and he sent back great synth and keyboard stuff for the songs 'Ghost Tarts of Stockholm' and 'Dolphin Boy.' "

Live, however, the Minus Five can sound radically different than on record

In a similar trade-off, McCaughey sent singer/songwriter Robyn Hitchcock the finished version of the song "Your Day Will Come" and told him to rent studio time for four hours and "just rant" over the last few minutes of feedback. "It came out exactly how I wanted it to," McCaughey says.

Such a method ought to result in a haphazard melee of different sounds and styles, but McCaughey says not. "I have a pretty good idea of what I want before I send it off. I knew I wanted that *Pet Sounds* aura, which is why I asked the High Llamas [Sean O'Hagan and Rob Allum] to work with me on two tracks that I sent to London. They just really took it to the hoop. And the one thing I always do is mix the songs all together at the same time and in the same studio, and that makes everything sound cohesive."

Live, however, the Minus Five can sound radically different than on record—and radically different from night to night, since the band members change from gig to gig. Remember the old punk-rock adage about everyone ending up in the Mekons? Now, anyone worth their salt in the indie-rock world has done time in the Minus Five. The current lineup contains McCaughey and Peter Buck—playing bass, rather than the 12-string Rickenbacker guitar he's known for in his day job with R.E.M.—with Ministry's Bill Rieflin on drums and the Model Rockets' John Ramberg.

For the Noise Pop Festival gig, former Gun Club/Pontiac Brother/Liquor Giant Ward Dotson will be along for the ride. (The five have never played together and won't until they meet at the Bottom of the Hill.) And on next month's *Conan O'Brien Show* appearance on March 13 in New York, they

will have Posie Ken Stringfellow.

Those appearances represent the full extent of the Minus Five's U.S. tour, since McCaughey will be getting busy with R.E.M., which has a new album coming out in May. Alas, McCaughey says R.E.M. won't be doing a full tour this summer, just a few dates plus TV and promotional appearances.

So come April, McCaughey says, the "battle"—such as it is—will be over, with the clear winner being all of us who were lucky enough to be in the audience at one of the band's rare gigs. But we should count ourselves lucky that we are getting the chance at all, since after 20 years in the Fellows, this record marks the first time one of McCaughey's projects, Fellows or Five, has been on a major label.

All the others have been on small indies, like Frontier or Scott's own label, Popllama. McCaughey, for one, is not bothered by the long-time coming aspect of things. The difference, he says, between being on Mammoth and being on an indie, is merely one of tour support.

THIS SPRING, the Fellows will finally be staying in a hotel between gigs, or "sixing it up," as McCaughey calls it, meaning staying at the Motel Six. "I'd actually be happy to stay on people's floors still," says the indefatigable McCaughey, who now normally stays in the finest hotels when he's touring the globe with R.E.M. "But it wouldn't be fair to the others."

It's hard to believe it's taken this long in his career to get a label to cough up some dough. "But I don't think of what I do as 'a career,' " he says. "It's just a twist, or something. I make records, and I get them out . . . somehow. And I play shows."

That's a bit of an understatement. He plays shows all right, shows ranging from a gig at Parent's Night at his daughter's elementary school to a show in front of 120,000 people at last month's Rock In Rio festival in Rio de Janeiro, considered one of the largest and most crazed of the world's big festivals.

The latter was, he admits reluctantly, an amazing gig, "but it doesn't really affect you that much. It's more like a concept than a reality, really. I didn't ever get face to face with the mayhem, although Michael [Stipe] did."

He smiles. "I don't know, things like that are cool, but it's not like the first time the Fellows played Madrid." That time, in 1992, he recalls, the small but rabid fan base in the tiny cellar nightclub went so insane that at one point they reached up to the stage, untied his shoelaces while he was playing guitar, tripped him up and pulled off his shoes as souvenirs. "*And* my socks. That was the weird thing. I'd been in a smelly van for two days—whoever wanted my awful socks was welcome to them."

That gig, says McCaughey, was maybe one of the best of his life—and this writer, who was lucky enough to be there, concurs. But the thing about the Young Fresh Fellows is that a night like that can happen anywhere and anytime, which is why this year's Noise Pop is a must-see event. M

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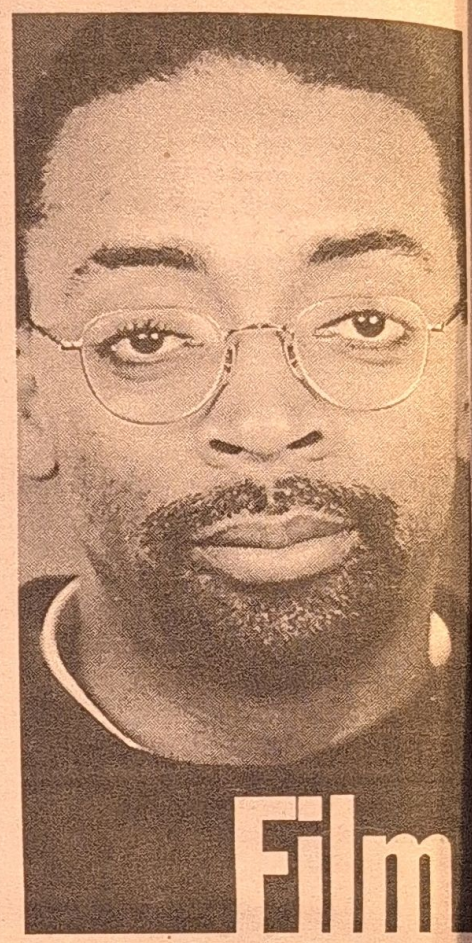
Spiked Commentary

Controversial director Spike Lee gets honored at Cinequest



Original King of Alternative Cinema: Spike Lee pioneered the use of low budgets and neighborhood locations in the making of 'She's Gotta Have It.'

FOR THE ANNIVERSARY of Malcolm X's death, KPFA radio replayed the man's speeches—all of them persuasive and well-spoken; most of them, by reckoning today, not even extreme. It was a fresh reminder of the loss. And all the speeches, no matter how you tried to get around it, sounded exactly as if Denzel Washington were reading them.

Malcolm X, the epic about Malcolm X that starred Washington—the film that remains Cinequest headliner Spike Lee's most famous achievement—preserves the intellectual journey of a man from selfish nihilism to militancy to the kind of far-seeing leadership that's damned near extinct today.

Even so, when Lee's first film, *She's Gotta Have It*, debuted, it would have been hard to predict that in the year 2001, if you saw a crossword puzzle that said "African American filmmaker," you'd fill in Spike Lee's name. The man seemed a little too reticent to make it in the picture business when he came to the old METRO office at First and San Salvador streets in 1986 to promote *She's Gotta Have It*. Like many other critics before and since, I duly asked Lee all the wrong questions. (The stupidest was if the heroine's name, "Nola," was a play on "nolo contendre.")

Pauline Kael of *The New Yorker* probably offered the most sensible take on Lee's budding career. She was most impressed by the way he made his first feature: in a hurry, with the use of his neighborhood as a location, with sex as the ever popular subject and deferred payment as the necessary means. In this instant-filmmaking, with its bare-bones cost and quickness, Lee was one of the first figures in what later came to be called alternative film.

And *She's Gotta Have It* launched a wave of African American filmmaking so diverse that it will never be forced into a niche again. *She's Gotta Have It* was key in awakening the film business to the fact that black people wanted representation—reflections of their lives and not just roles as sacrificial sidekicks or comedy relief. The industry keeps forgetting this; Lee keeps reminding it.

Lee's upcoming project is a huge one: the life of Jackie Robinson. It may be more interesting—considering Lee's public struggles with film financing—to see him get smaller and go underground with video filmmaking. After his unfocused 1970s movie, *Summer of Sam*, Lee bounced back impressively.

The hilarious performance film *The Original Kings of Comedy* chronicled four intrepid stand-up comedians in concert. Lee followed it with a film about the underside of the relationship between African Americans and humor: the inspired, if flawed, study of racist entertainment *Bamboozled*, which will be screening at Cinequest on March 3.

In *Bamboozled*, a self-loathing TV writer (Damon Wayans) creates a low-ball scheme: *Mantan—The New Millennium Minstrel Show*, starring two shiftless Negroes on an Alabama watermelon farm. Womack (Tommy Davidson) and Manray (the dancer Savion Glover) are signed on to do the tap-dancing and grinning.

Bamboozled is infuriating. I was raging after it was over, because it seemed an important subject bollixed up by an inept dramatic framework. I calmed down later, seeing how *Bamboozled* faced a barrage of criticism, fair and unfair.

THE FILM has been criticized fairly on the grounds of length, and the romance that didn't work (were we really supposed to believe that a stunner like Jada Pinkett would involved herself with the prissy ad exec played by Damon Wayans?) But there's a sense in all of Lee's films that women are basically confused flirts at best and pains in the butt at their worst. (In *She's Gotta Have It*, Lee started out as a real sensualist, but age and responsibility have taken that away from him.)

Less fair criticism was the charge

In Dreams: Peter Shaner's 'Nicolas' is the first feature film to be shot with a new high-definition Sony camera system.

that a show like *Mantan* wouldn't be a success on television. Such critics show more faith than I have in TV. The promotion of a new "ironic" minstrel show would have required some spinning and the right kind of publicity—plenty of press junkets, maybe an academic or two on the weighing in on the editorial page.

Maybe I was more interested in the methods by which a new minstrel show could be pulled over the public's eyes—and less in the motives of the performers who would sell themselves out for it. (At heart, everyone knows why performers sell out: because they can.)

In making a satire of TV, Lee ought to have shaped the movie like a dagger, what with its provocative moments like Pinkett's recital of the recipe for making burnt-cork black face makeup, and the scene, worthy of Ralph Ellison, in which a hideous racist toy comes to life.

The closing montage of racist images in American film is an impressive idea—a montage that ought to be on the Oscar telecast. So why did Lee have to rope in figures such as Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, Ethel Waters and Fats Waller—Fats Waller!—as racist caricatures?

Thanks to *Bamboozled*, Spike Lee still seems on the verge of another breakthrough. You can't say that about most of the filmmakers of his age. Listening to Malcolm X on the radio, I was depressed and unconvinced that there had been any progress in racial relations in America in the 35 years since his death.

I finally decided that things had gotten somewhat better and somewhat worse, but at least they hadn't stayed the same. The independent film movement that Lee helped spearhead has been laden with disappointments. Despite how democratic it is, it's still subject to Sturgeon's Law: nine out of 10 projects won't have been worth the sweat. But Spike Lee deserves honor for having changed American film so that, better or worse, it'll never be the same as it was before he arrived.

Spike Lee takes part in a public conversation Friday (March 2) at 7pm at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. On March 3 at 4:30pm at the AMC Saratoga, *4 Little Girls* will be screened, followed at 9:15pm by *Bamboozled*.

Digital Doings

THE CREATIVE ARTS AGENCY, one of L.A.'s leading talent agencies, used to give away T-shirts showing a talking dog from a vaudeville animal act telling his agent, "But, really, what I want to do is direct." If recent developments in digital technology don't actually make it simple and easy enough for a dog to direct a movie, it's only a matter of time.

An entire section of Cinequest's Digital by Digital (DXD) program (March 2–4) will be turned over to exploring the exciting possibilities of digital film. Highlights include a screening of *Swimming Upstream*, a movie shot on 24PHD, worth seeing as an example of the nigh-celluloid quality of the images. The story is in the *Catcher in the Rye* vein of a sensitive New England student dealing with long-standing pain over the death of his mother; Michael Moriarty co-stars (March 1 at 9:30pm at Camera One).

In a grittier vein is the "digitally captured" movie (a more accurate but still clumsy way to describe film-free filmmaking) *Why Get Married the Night the World Ends?* Elina Löwensohn, Hal Hartley veteran and Audrey Hepburn of the avant-garde, stars in a story of dread and love in the streets (March 2 at 11:30pm at Camera 3). *Nicolas*, Peter Shaner's story of a young woman's (literal) dream man is the first feature film to be shot in a Sony camera system that George Lucas is using for the new *Star Wars* film (March 1 at 7:45pm and March 3 at 9:15pm at Camera 3). Also, an SJSU film class led by last year's Cinequest guest Babak Sarrafan will be showing their instant movie about Cinequest 11, made possible with digital tech: *The Mess in the Scene* (March 4 at 5:30pm at Camera 3), potentially starring such luminaries as Spike Lee and Lolita Davidovich.

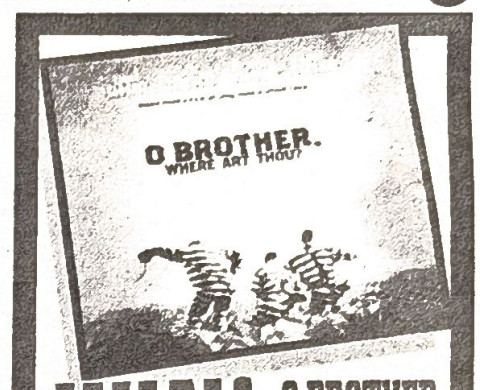
DXD hosts five different seminars on the next-generation technologies that will change filmmaking, post-production, distribution and exhibition. One of the five sessions is a look backward as well as forward: an evening with digi-documentary maker Richard Leacock, whose career (begun with pioneer Robert Flaherty) has been a search for smaller and more lightweight cameras. His delivers a lecture titled "From Nanook to Today" (March 2 at 5:15pm at Camera 3).

Millennial Gen Exhibition—Theater to Home (March 2 at 2pm at Camera 3) presents a simple overview of how digital moviemaking works. Cutting Edge Development—Script to Screen (March 3 at 10am at Camera One) features representatives from Panasonic, who will discuss nonlinear editing and the new developments in projection, especially Plasma screens and large-venue digital projection.

Digital Post Production, the Apple segment of DXD (March 4 at 10:30am at Camera 3) is a study of on- and off-line Quicktime movie preparations, with some as-yet-unscheduled guests on the topic of programs that treat the images after they've been captured.

The Digital Hierarchy (March 3 at 1:30pm at Camera 3) is a seminar on the different grades in visual quality, from low-resolution but atmospheric handheld to 24-frame-a-minute prints of digital film, such as *Swimming Upstream* (above). Any moviemaking dogs in attendance will probably prefer the black and white.

Richard von Busack



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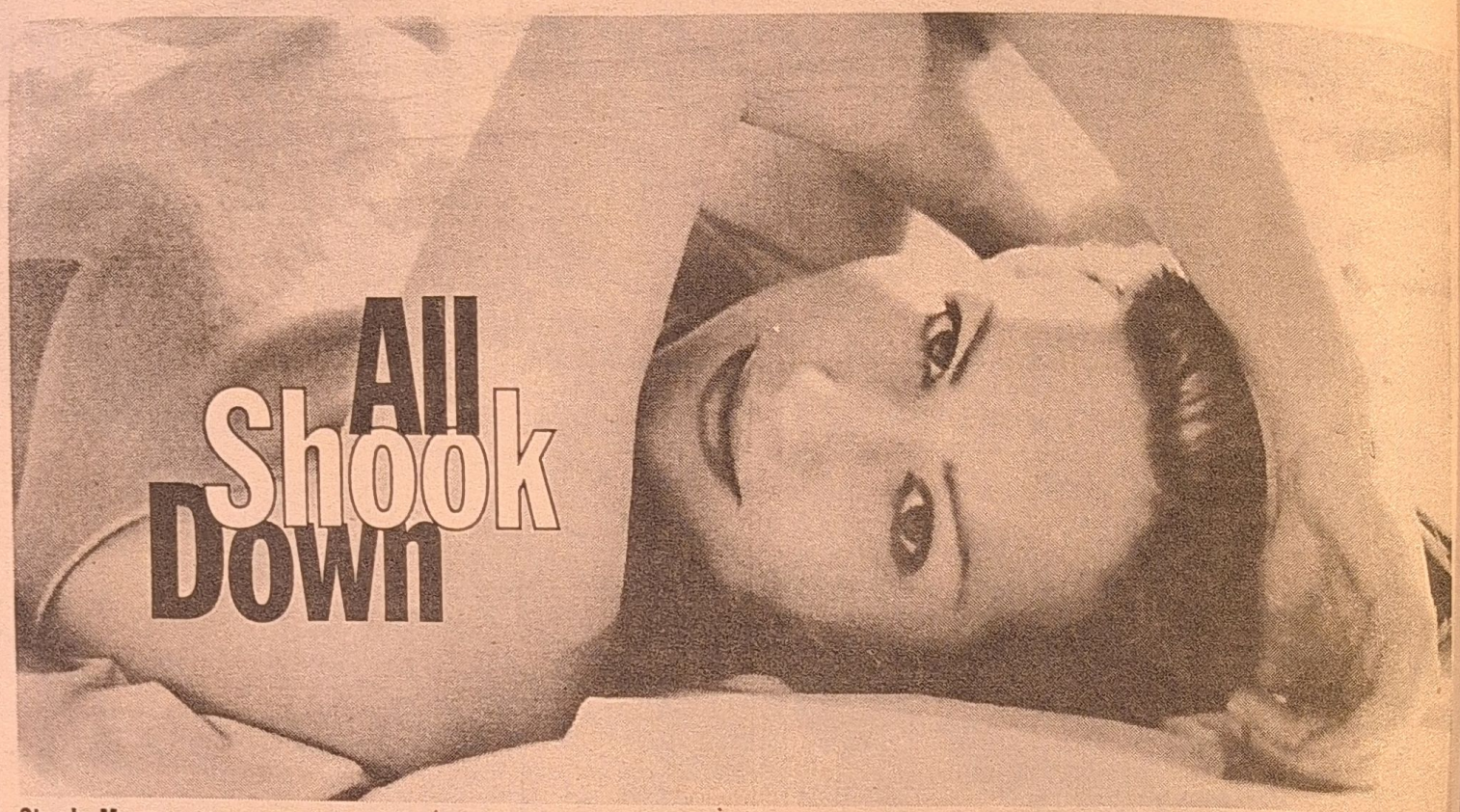
Fooled Again

Eminem plays at shock effects with a corporate mindset



Stan by Me: The real genius behind 'Stan' is uncredited Dido, whose song "Thank You' forms the bedrock of Eminem's hit.

'REBELLION" is a word I hate, at least when it's used in conjunction with the words "rock" or "rap." To my mind, the two don't go together at all: indeed, they're all but antithetical, and have been for the last 30 or 40 years. Successful rockers and especially rappers are players, not rebels—they work within the corporate system doling out carefully engineered slices of commercially viable "outrageousness," and few do it more obviously than this year's big sensation, rapper Eminem.

Seriously. I never see the guy on TV or read about him in the papers without detecting yet another instance of his total Company Manhood. He may well be wearing a gray-flannel suit and working for Intel, not Interscope. His much-hyped appearance at this year's Grammy Awards show last Wednesday was a case in point.

In his acceptance speech for "best rap album," Eminem hurriedly thanked every single white male executive at his record company, right down to his lowly publicist, and his face looked pinched and worried as he did so, for all the world like a guy testifying against his friends before HUAC.

He's a real good soldier for his company though. He does what he's told, even when he's told to sing his best song on TV accompanied by an extremely unhip gay man whose music and oeuvre have no relevance to Eminem's whatsoever. Eminem must have relished appearing with Elton John about as much as, say, George W. Bush would like appearing with Ralph Nader as his sidekick—but he did it anyway, because despite his image, Eminem's whole career has been one of enthrallment to the Man.

Eminem's appearance on the Grammys was a big favor for the awards. They needed him, both for credibility and to reach a younger audience. Also, he provided NARAS (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences) President Mike Greene with a lovely opportunity to speechify for five minutes on prime-time TV.

Greene used the controversy surrounding Eminem's vicious lyrics to praise the music industry's supposed dedication to free speech, anticensorship issues and, you know, "rebelling" against unfair societal mores. He didn't provide any examples, and all the ones that came to my mind—like the time Warner Bros. dropped Ice T because of the song "Cop Killer," or the time Guns N' Roses released a record with a disgusting rape scene on its cover, were not ones that, if I were the music industry, I'd be super proud of.

THEN CAME EMMY, looking even more uptight than usual, to sing "Stan" with the help of Elton John. Forget the cheesy set and Em's (uncharacteristic) bad rapping and Elton's inability to sing the chorus on key—what was truly offensive about this little event wasn't its purely hype-oriented genesis, or the violent act that ends the song. ("Stan," supposedly inspired by Eminem's songs, puts his pregnant girlfriend in the trunk of his car and drives off a bridge, while a sad Eminem looks on aghast.)

It's that every single note of the damn thing—everything except for Em's rap—was written by the British artist Dido (and came out on Dido's album *No Angel* last year), whose name was never mentioned on TV.

I mean, sampling is one thing—a tape loop or a riff is entirely acceptable in today's pop world. But "Stan" doesn't limit itself to a short snippet or a beat; it lifts the entire chorus (the part John was singing) of the song "Thank You" by Dido and then uses the rest of it as the underpinning for Eminem's contextually different lyrics.

True, most of Eminem's songs aren't as shamelessly derivative as this one, but neither are they as good. And that's what's maddening. What impressed people who watched the Grammys about "Stan"—what made it singable for John at all—didn't have anything to *do* with Eminem's art. Now, if Elton had been asked to sing along with "Kill You" or "Kim," that would have been a different thing entirely. At least it would have been more true to what Eminem's all about, and Elton would have had to think twice about taking part.

"Stan" is another matter. There's a duplicitousness about the song that is quite in keeping with a lot of things about Eminem's career. I don't actually think Eminem is a bad artist. His music—judged well within in its own sphere, that is, gangsta rap—is one thing, but his fame and notoriety are another, just a lot of smoke and mirrors, well-placed publicity, an arrest or two, the judicious use of "shocking" subjects and a public that is endlessly willing to buy the party line, which is that his music's gross subject matter is providing some kind of open debate or forum for social issues.

All it is really providing is some much-needed hype for an organization—the Grammys—that has been in disrepute for decades. In truth, the acts they nominate and reward are never particularly estimable. Generally, banality wins out over talent, and this year's episode was no exception, because when push came to shove, the 13,000 members of the academy elected Steely Dan's latest and lamest LP, *Two Against Nature*, the album of the year.

This is not really that surprising, since the academy consists mostly of sound engineers and technicians, many of whom are white men and most of whom are the same as age as Steely Dan. When you saw the acts' principals, two hobbled old men, accepting their award, you could see exactly how they got the vote: they are the artists who most resemble the members of the academy, physically and demographically, and everyone loves to vote for their own image.

Eminem's inclusion in the proceedings was an obvious gambit. By including him, NARAS wanted to make itself seem credible, hip, watchable and, yes, rebellious—a word Greene had the temerity to use to describe the Grammy in the "We're so relevant speech" that preceded Eminem's duet with John.

But the truth is, they aren't relevant, and they aren't rebellious, and neither is rock, and neither is rap. Not any of it, not ever. Artistic? Maybe. Enjoyable, yes. Experimental, on occasion—and shocking and avant-garde, and commercial and many other things. But it is not rebellious, and it never will be again.

Meet the New Boss, Same as the Old Boss

NAPSTER. Now, *that's* relevance for you—and even a rebellion, albeit a short-lived one. Alas, last week's so-called "White Flag" announcement, in which Nappy told the five major record labels they'd settle out of court for approximately one billion dollars of revenue to be doled out over five years, put paid to any idea that Napster is in the forefront of revolution.

It was not, however, really an unexpected move. Napster has been looking for a way to monetize itself, and to become "legitimate," ever since it incorporated in early 2000. It is sad, however, that the only way it can see to do that is to join forces with the enemy—and sadder still that the enemy, such as it is, is now refusing to do even that.

According to statements issued by three of the five major labels, Universal, Sony and AOL–Time Warner, "They [Napster] have still not answered the questions we have about a secure system which prevents unauthorized trading, or about how they intend to create a business model that respects the rights of record companies, artists and publishers."

Gee, hearing record labels talk about respecting artists' rights would be funny if it weren't so tragic. Go tell it to Robert Johnson. Or Bruce Springsteen. Or TLC, or the many other bands who've cut rotten deals with labels. Funny how self-righteous people get when the shoe is on the other foot. Be that as it may, the mess is just getting bigger, not smaller. It'll be interesting to see what happens next.

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Fate and Phaedra

Philip Glass' score adds powerful drama to Ballet's 'Phaedra'

IF BALLET San Jose Silicon Valley successfully stages *Phaedra*, can *Joseph's Legend* be far behind? The two ballets, of equal length, have more in common than the opera world's most famous pairing, *Cav and Pag*, and their reputations in recent years shine with legendary brightness, despite their relative obscurity.

Legend, after all, lies behind both, Phaedra from the ancient Greek and Joseph from the Old Testament. In their balletic resurrections, each depends on four principal dancers. Each casts a married woman as the erotic pursuer of a younger man. Each also enjoys the considerable benefit of music composed specifically for their purpose, powerful scores by Philip Glass (*Phaedra*) and Richard Strauss (*Josephslegende*).

Glass' score actually began life as a movie soundtrack, but gained additional material for Flemming Flindt's original *Phaedra* at the Dallas Ballet in 1987, and a full orchestration for the San Jose company's live performances under conductor Dwight Oltman. Glass' notoriously obsessive ostinatos work especially well in the context of strict, even militant, ritual.

At once ominous and anxious, they give the drama of *Phaedra* a tone of inexorable doom. Indeed, this score fits the context better and makes a more memorable impact than much, if not most, of the composer's music. Flindt's ballet unfolds, therefore, with increasingly tragic inevitability as Phaedra is propelled into lust for her stepson, Hippolytus, by the goddess Aphrodite, now furiously jealous over Hippolytus' attentions to her rival Artemis.

Two giant statues signal the start and the close of the drama while the corps de ballet serves as the Greek chorus. Introduced one by one are the principals, Theseus (Stephane Dalle), Phaedra (Joanne Jaglowski), Hippolytus (Ramon Moreno) and the Nurse (Emi Hariyama). Even as the principals play out their gods-manipulated roles, they seem to know what is happening to them.

This knowledge, however, does not extend to the hapless husband and father, Theseus, who, in the climactic scene, angrily kills his innocent son, Hippolytus, before he learns the truth.

According to the program notes, Flindt sought to explain Phaedra's lust in human terms, as a desperate search for meaning in her lonely life. In fact, that does describe the visual and dramatic impression he makes with his dancers. But his scenario follows a sequence of brief scenes all prompted by quotes from Euripides' *Hippolytus* of c. 428 B.C.E.

With such efficient choreographic organization, and Glass's driving music, Sunday's 50-minute performance flew by. Jaglowski carried the lion's share of the narrative, expressing a full emotional range, torn loyalties, tender love, guilt, remorse and despair. Her performance as the finally dead queen, dragged about by her grieving husband, was a miracle of technique.

As the Nurse, Hariyama echoed Phaedra's agonies with equally expressive emotion. The richness of the narrative apparently convinced Flindt originally to eschew the use of pointe. But for San Jose, these two women actually enhanced expressiveness from those heights.

Moreno made Hippolytus his own, idealistic, awkwardly attracted to his stepmother's attentions, increasingly fearful as these events spiraled out of control, respectful of his father, hesitant, naive. His one stumble even stayed in character.

Dalle, as Theseus, presented a more technical than expressive persona, efficient but wanting a more convincing characterization. The corps continued to struggle to achieve those designs whose choreography deploys them in precision patterns across the stage. As the ensemble came to rest, the implicit angles and spaces were too often uneven and misaligned. On the other hand, a moment that produced four groups of three women distilled the essence of the Three Graces.

To complement the Flindt, Léonide Massine's witty and stylish *Gaîté Parisienne* bubbled over with its well-known champagne frivolity. Raymond Rodriguez created a carpetbag masterpiece as the Peruvian while Sean Kelly tripped the romantic fantastic with Maydee Pena, who delivered a particularly graceful performance. Daniel Gwatkin maintained a fine military authority even while pursuing the girls and engaging in fisticuffs over them. Grethel Domingo charmed the audience while unsuccessfully pursuing a beau on stage. Kwang-Suk Choi whipped up a sparkling frenzy among the Can-Can dancers whose own solo star was the fetching Dalia Rawson.

The company wore the venerable piece with ease and grace. And it's safe to assume that Offenbach would be happy to know that his music was still being enjoyed 120 years after his death in a ballet he never even heard of.

Scott MacClelland

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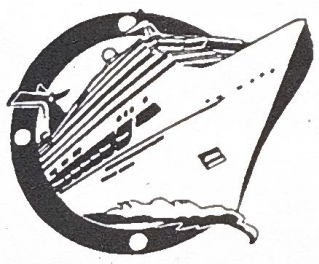

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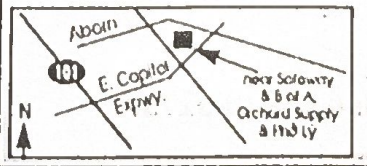

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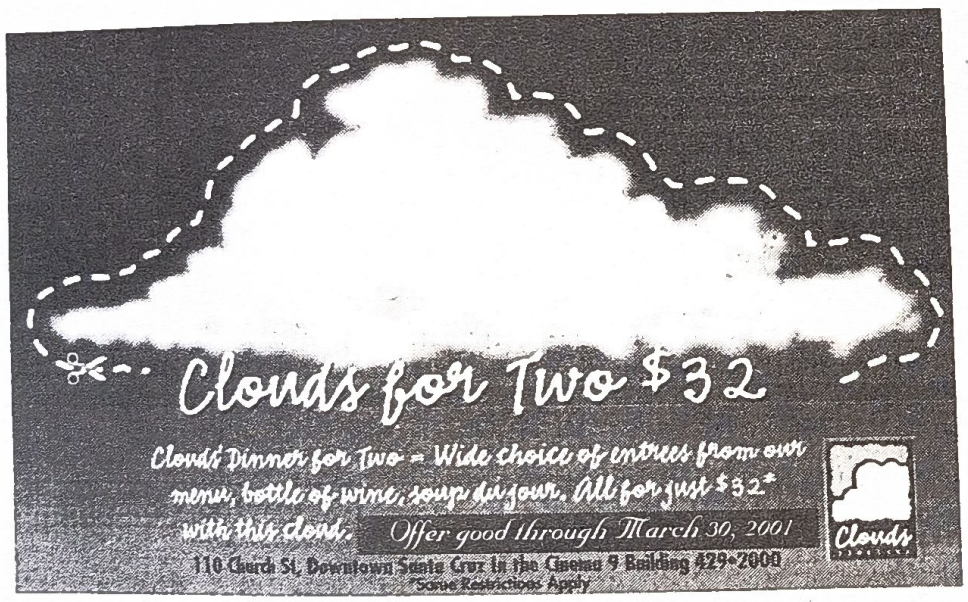

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Just For Yuki

Chopsticks and Cheer: The upbeat attitude of staff at often-busy Yuki Sushi in Santa Clara makes the wait bearable.

The simple staying power of Yuki Sushi lies in good food, generous portions and super chefs

By Joseph Izzo Jr.

I KNEW WE WERE going to have to wait for a table at Yuki Sushi. We saw the people sitting outside in plastic chairs the minute we got out of the car. But we had plans, people to meet, and went forward anyway, past the Train Shop, then inside, where we were told to sign our names on a tote board near the front entrance, then wait—30, maybe 45 minutes—for a table.

We hadn't even seated ourselves in the chilly night, in one of those flimsy chairs, when a young woman—not more than 25—went on a rant: "I wish all these dotcommer millionaires would lose their jobs and have to move away so we wouldn't have to wait 45 minutes to get into a restaurant on a Friday night."

I heard what she said and could understand her anger and frustration. To a point. There are more people in the valley these days—a statistical fact—and small restaurants with good reputations are being pushed to the edge. A restaurant that once had a healthy, manageable clientele is now confronted with packed conditions on a regular basis. Be that as it may, the reason people have to wait in line at Yuki Sushi has little to do with dotcommers—they're losing their jobs anyway. It has to do with the restaurant itself.

This one is a special place and has been ever since it opened in the late '80s, long before these so-called dotcommers began wreaking havoc on small, South Bay holes-in-the-wall. Its success is not the fault of a booming economy. This restaurant is a good place to eat and people like good food. And that's a simple fact—like it or not.

I would have preferred to come here during the week. It's not as hectic then. It may be crowded, but at least you won't have to wait for nearly an hour to get a table in the small dining quarters furnished with sushi counter and tatami seating open to the lights and the noise. That Friday night, we had to make our way through narrow aisles and claustrophobic conditions, past jutting elbows and headlong stares that bore holes into the body and beyond. Eventually, though, my guests and I did get a table and settled in for dinner. Jokes were exchanged and soon we were warm, laughing and ready to eat.

I've often complained about how Japanese restaurants all seem the same. But this place is different, even from those ma-and-pa places over on Jackson Street in Japantown. A family-friendly ambience prevails here, full of community hubbub and warm interactions. I feel it every time I come—welcome and at home—and yet I don't know a single person. I may know their faces—many regulars frequent this hideout—but not their names.

For such a small place, the menu is extensive and full of inventive items I rarely see on Japanese menus. Dishes are well thought out and presented in a manner that is visually appealing, but never overstated or silly. For starters, I like the appetizers, especially the soft-shell crab ($5.50), deep-fried but greaseless and served with a tangy ponzu sauce. This visit we also tried the Ika Fry ($4.50), or deep-fried calamari, sealed in another greaseless breading that rang like chimes against the teeth.

From there we turned an eye to the Specialty Rolls, where I continue to find items fusing Japanese tradition with the trendy influences of California culture. We had a Spicy Tuna ($4), which partnered the lush fish—in ample supply—with a creamy jalapeño sauce with enough pepper to leave a sting on the lips. The Toshi Roll ($4.50) folded into a marriage of tuna, yellowtail, salmon, avocado, cucumber and pickled gobo root—which infused all with a gentle but eye-opening tanginess. On past occasions, the Spider ($6.75), with soft-shell crab, avocado and tobiko, and the fishless Cesar ($3.70), with cream cheese, green onions, cucumber and avocado, have both delighted the senses while encouraging deeper exploration of Yuki's creative side. Unlike so many kitchens these days forcing creativity to the point of failure, Yuki keeps it simple, but always interesting, always entertaining.

Like all Japanese restaurants, there are many entrees that mix and match a variety of sushi items (nigiri, sashimi and makimono) with dishes like Chicken Teriyaki ($8.45) and Tempura ($9.95), all of which are reasonably priced and done with assiduous technique by the hard-working chefs. The teriyaki (both chicken and beef) is fresh and grilled to order, and presented clean and easy to get at with chopsticks. More than once, we've enjoyed Tonkatsu ($9.25), or deep-fried pork. This time we had it in combination with chicken breast, also in a crispy jacket and cut into neat pieces, then served with a katsu sauce fragrant with ginger. Portions were more than we could handle.

We also had Tofu Donburi ($7.75)—and a big bowl of it, too—full of rice, vegetables and creamy bean curd, and finished with a flourish of toasted seaweed. Though fresh and nutritious from top to bottom, the rice was soaked in broth and, because of it, flavors were diluted. The Vegetable Sukiyaki ($9.75) was much better; flavors were more pronounced in the sweet teriyaki soup.

I've never been disappointed by Yuki Sushi. I always leave feeling upbeat and well fed. The people who cook and serve at this shoebox establishment remain jolly through the best of it and, somehow, through the worst of it. My patience would have run out long ago if I had to transact with the erratic emotions of customers like the ranting young woman we encountered at the beginning of our Friday night dinner. But the people here seem to understand the ups and downs of life in Silicon Valley and ride the shifting currents without losing a step.

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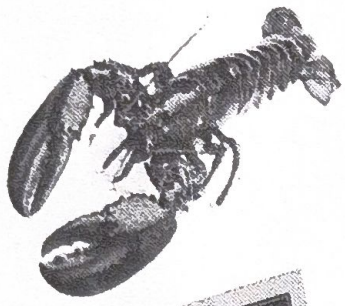

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UNDER THE "How can we miss you if you won't go away" category is the news that Morgan Hill restaurateur **Maurizio Cutrignelli** is no longer merely a delicious memory. He's back. The all-new **Maurizio's** Italian Restaurant threw itself a private grand opening last week to celebrate being back among the neighborhood clientele who flock to the Mediterranean menu created by the well-seasoned host. Morgan Hill, incidentally, is no longer just that sleepy corridor you pass through on your way to L.A. More and more Silicon Valley-ites are finding country living in the beautiful southern stretches of Santa Clara County the perfect antidote for the dotcom hustle. If you don't believe me, head down there soon and watch springtime turn the hills to neon green punctuated by expanses of yellow mustard. Well, now residents and newcomers alike have one more fine restaurant to join the growing throng of upscale dining rooms popping up in Morgan Hill. There's a new location, but the menu at Maurizio's is full of old favorites, plus an expanded wine list and a classy bar where you can sip and enjoy live jazz on weekends.

Maurizio's is located at 17535 Monterey Road in Morgan Hill (formerly Jack's Steak House). Phone 408.782.7550 for your reservations and welcome Maurizio back to pastoral Morgan Hill.

Seaside Oenotecha

Until the premium wine boom of the late '60s, the finest California red wine anybody had ever tasted was probably a bottle of BV Cabernet. Even after the boom of boutique wineries hit, BV—founded in 1900 by Frenchman George de LaTour—led the pack. Still does. The Napa Valley landmark's 1997 Tapestry Reserve was chosen as one of *Wine Spectator's* Top 100 Wines of 2000. Now that you know all this, it will make complete sense to you that **Beaulieu Vineyards** will be showcased at a wine dinner on Friday, March 9, at one of the finest restaurants in central California—I refer to **Theo's**, in Soquel (a few miles south of Santa Cruz, for those of you who've been online too long). The wine dinner with Beaulieu Vineyards brings BV rep Alan Lantow to Theo's to talk wine and answer questions. But an exceptional group of wines, including a Carneros Chardonnay, a Merlot, the Tapestry and Muscat d'Beaulieu, is only half the evening's attraction. Chef Pete Dressen has masterminded another one of his mind-blowing menus to accompany the BV selections.

After champagne and hors d'oeuvres, dinner begins with cannelloni of smoked salmon and Dungeness crab with fennel, followed by a second plate of grilled duck with roasted onions and thyme. Dressen's main course of braised beef short ribs will be joined by celery root purée and the Tapestry Reserve 1997. Dessert involves mascarpone cheesecake with blood oranges and pistachios paired with the muscat. Such a sensational sensory experience, and all-inclusive for only $100 per person. Drive over the hill, get a room and find out what this remarkable restaurant can do.

Miscue

In the "Don't quit your day job yet" category, Kyle Wiens had emailed me a few weeks back that after many years he would be leaving the kitchen at Valley Fair's opulent **California Cafe** to take over the chef's helm at **Lou's Village**. There must have been some communication problems, because according to Wiens, when he showed up for work last week at the historic seafood house, he was told that, no, he did not have the job. Lou's owner, **Tim Muller,** admitted, "There were major problems. Essentially, we never got started." Seems to me that there's a lesson in here somewhere—like make sure you've got a firm agreement before severing your lifeline. Job security never was strong in the restaurant industry, as this little vignette clearly illustrates. Good luck to Wiens in parlaying his decade-plus legacy at Cal Cafe into a new gig—he's got kids to feed.

Christina Waters

Email me! Readers restaurateurs, chefs: Please send any news items, tips, menu changes, openings, special events and juicy gossip to cwaters@metronews.com.

Choice Diner's Guide

Our selective list of area restaurants includes those that have been favorably reviewed in print by Metro food critics and others that have been sampled but not reviewed in print. All visits by our writers are made anonymously, and all expenses are paid by Metro. Updates from vigilant readers and listed restaurateurs are heartily encouraged; please submit via mail to 550 S. First St., San Jose, 95113. Expanded listings are available online at Metro's Website, www.metroactive.com.

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Hawgs Seafood Bar *Seafood.* $$. Menu scores points on generous portions of old favorites and such fresh touches as grilled ahi salad. Casual. Beer, wine. 1700 W. Campbell Ave. 408.379.9555.

Kazoo Sushi Boat *Japanese.* $. With its 33 appetizers (16 vegetarian), it's as much a "zensai and sake" destination as a sushi depot. Casual. Beer, wine. 10 E. Hamilton Ave. 408.871.1250.

Le Zest *Continental.* $$. Accessible prices, elegant atmosphere—a combination sure to win fans. The short menu suggests a confident chef who prefers to showcase a few quality dishes; each preparation has a distinct intelligence. Wine, beer. Closed Mon. 75 S. San Tomas Aquino Rd, #1. 408.378.5945.

Mama Mia's *Family-style Italian.* $$. Simple Southern Italian food—not that new stuff with truffles from Piedmont. Expect pasta, pizza and spumoni made from the owner's family recipe. Beer, wine. 200 E. Hamilton Ave. 408.379.3333.

Palermo Pizza *Italian-American.* $. This no-frills neighborhood eatery dispenses primo pizza—three types of crust, 40 toppings. Beer, wine. 915 S. San Tomas Aquino Rd. 408.374.1800.

Shebele *Ethiopian.* $. Spicy meat and vegetable stews, sour *injera* pancakes, sweet honey wine—Shebele hits all the flavor notes. Prices are harmonious, and so is the decor. Beer, wine. 422 E. Campbell Ave. 408.378.3131.

Siu Gia *Asian.* $$. A bit of everything for brunch, from staples such as kung pao chicken to a Taiwanese breakfast favorite, soymilk soup. Other items: scallion pancakes, red bean pastries. Beer, wine. 1651 W. Campbell Ave. 408.378.9888.

CUPERTINO

Caffe Torre *New Italian.* $$$. A gem tucked away in an unassuming little mall, with a sophisticated interior and congenial hosts. Even better is the great pasta and seafood. Beer, wine. 20343 Stevens Creek Blvd. 408.257.2383.

Florentine Restaurant *Italian.* $. Bold flavors, fresh ingredients and lavish portions. Casual to dressy. Beer, wine. 10275 S. De Anza Blvd. (plus a dozen other locations). 408.253.6532.

Fontana's *Californian/Italian.* $$$. A steady performer, Fontana rarely disappoints pasta lovers. Beer, wine. 20840 Steven Creek Blvd. 408.725.0188.

Kathmandu West *Nepalese.* $. A mountain range of flavors for explorers of Nepalese cuisine. Casual. Beer, wine. 20916 Homestead Rd. 408.996.0940.

Kingswood Teppan Steak House *Japanese, Chinese.* $$. An unusual mix of teppan, sushi and shabu-shabu offerings under one roof. Beer, wine. 10935 N. Wolfe Road. 408.255.5928.

Loon Wah *Chinese.* $. The kitchen produces good wok-centric dishes, but its main draw is fresh, hand-pulled noodles, which are excellent in lieu of regular chow mein. Casual. Beer, wine. 1146 De Anza Blvd. 408.257.8877.

Santa Barbara Grill *Regional American.* $$$. Menu includes grilled specials, vegan-friendly dishes and rich pasta entrees. Casual, but draws well-dressed crowd. Dinner daily; lunch Mon.-Fri. Full bar. 10745 N. De Anza Blvd. 408.253.2233.

Silver Wing *Szechuan, Yangchow.* $$. Silver Wing reaches high and succeeds with classy decor, good service, reasonable prices. Full dim sum Sat-Sun brunch. 10385 N. Wolfe Rd. 408.873.7228.

Tsunami *Sushi.* $$$. Attractively decorated with lots of sleek blonde woodwork, Tsunami offers islands of seating crowned by a tiny, well-manicured bar. Choices include umpteen crisp, hot, vegetarian rolls and baroque nigiri sushi. Full bar. 21271 Stevens Creek Blvd. 408.996.8886.

Wolfe Cafe *East-West.* $. Hong Kong/Taipei-style cafeteria offers everything from curry to steaks, seafood to chow mein—even borscht. Cupertino Village, 10851 N. Wolfe Rd. 408.777.9393.

LOS ALTOS

Adobe Creek *New American.* $$$$. The two-story atrium dining room provides for a vibrant scene, and the menu surfs the foods of the moment, including elaborate salads and lots of red meat, including venison. Desserts are made in-house. Full bar, banquet rooms. 127 First St. 650.917.2000.

Akane *Japanese/sushi bar.* $$. Nigiri and maki treasures are gracefully presented at this attractive restaurant. Beer, wine. 250 Third St. 650.941.8150.

Bandera *American grill.* $$$. Expect bold, carnivore-pleasing food; spit-roasted chicken and apple-cured pork tenderloin are highlights. Upscale casual. Full bar. 233 Third St. 650.948.3524.

Beauséjour *Continental.* $$$. Elegant seafood, meat and game dishes lean toward reducing fat without compromising taste. Call for resv. Full bar. 170 State St. 650.948.1382.

Chef Chu's *Chinese.* $$. Speedy service, superb preparation and the ability to cater to varied tastes keep this landmark in business. Casual. Full bar. 1067 N. San Antonio Rd. 650.948.2696.

i Fratelli *Classic Italian.* $$$. Menus feature variations on old recipes as well as a host of traditionals. Dressy. Wine, beer. Dinner nightly; lunch weekdays. 388 Main St. 650.941.9636.

LOS GATOS

Cafe Marcella *Contemporary Italian.* $$$. Soars effortlessly to heights of style, substance and savvy service. Casual. Beer, wine. Closed Mon. 368 Village Lane. 408.354.8006.

Cafe Trio *California bistro.* $$$. A fusion of influences and a devotion to fresh ingredients distinguish Cafe Trio. Casual. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 15466 Los Gatos Blvd. 408.356.8129.

California Cafe *New American.* $$$. An innovative approach to Pacific Rim staples makes for some lovely surprises. The ace service matches the smart setting. Full bar. 50 University Ave. 408.354.8118.

Green Papaya *Vietnamese.* $$. California cuisine meets Southeast Asia by way of Paris, with inventive updates of clay pot and five-spice authentica. More Asian bistro than noodle house, Green Papaya looks smart and acts smart. Closed Mon. Beer, wine. 137 N. Santa Cruz Ave. 408.395.9115.

I Gatti *New Italian.* $$$. I Gatti fits like a glove along peaceful Main Street—a little place, but not cramped like so many small restaurants can be. The chef understands the basics but isn't afraid to create refreshing twists on traditional recipes. Closed Mon. 25 Main St. 408.399.5180.

Kamakura Sushi and Sake House *Sushi bar classics.* $$. In a smart setting, Kamakura showcases a procession of impeccable sushi and sashimi platters. 135 N. Santa Cruz Ave. 408.395.6650.

Lindsey's at the Summit *American.* $$. Bold flavors distinguish this attractive eatery, where furnishings stand out of the way of a panoramic view. Beer, wine. Closed Mon. 23123 Highway 17 (south of Summit Road). 408.353.5679.

Mount Everest *Indian.* $$. This unpretentious restaurant offers tandoori specialties. Beer, wine. 412 N. Santa Cruz Ave. 408.354.2427.

Pigalle *Bistro.* $$$. Charming murals transform the landmark bistro into a Montmartresque scene, and the food delivers a complementary Gallic twist. 27 N. Santa Cruz Ave. 408.395.7924.

Steamer's *New American.* $$$. Styling itself as a grillhouse, Steamer's includes rotisserie meats and fragrant grilled chops in addition to fresh fish. Quality control and service are excellent. Full bar. 31 University Ave. 408.395.2722.

Tapestry *California bistro.* $$$. From classy menu design to attentive service, Tapestry is a knockout. The menu underscores an interest in seasonal produce as well as the many cultural influences on California's cooking pot. Wine, beer. 11 College Ave. 408.395.2800.

Continued on next page

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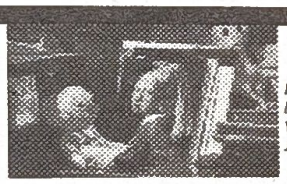

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Continued from previous page

MENLO PARK

Flea Street Cafe *New California country.* $$$. Devoted to seasonal produce, this cozy bistro offers innovative fare. Casual. Beer, wine. Closed Mon. 3607 Alameda de las Pulgas. 650.854.1226.

Left Bank *Grandma's French.* $$$. Wise country fare combined with metropolitan savoir faire and a dash of Gallic attitude make the Left Bank a hit. Full bar. 635 Santa Cruz Ave. 650.473.6543.

Le Pot au Feu *Country French.* $$$. An easygoing place where diners feel comfortable ordering a one-course or a five-course meal. Wine and beer. Closed Mon. 1149 El Camino. 650.322.4343.

Scala Mia House of Garlic *Italian.* $$. A small space with a large menu, sporting the traditionals that have been mainstays at local eateries. Appetizers and salads are the best bets. Closed Sun. 820 Santa Cruz Ave. 650.323.3665.

Silan *Italian.* $$. Over-the-top country Italian ambience draws more attention than the ambitious but uneven Italian specialties. Good service, a full bar and a reasonable wine list augment the dining experience. 376 First St. 650.917.0300

Trattoria Buon Gusto *Southern Italian.* $$. Matriarch Palma Costa performs pasta magic in this neighborhood treasure trove of earthy flavors and warm service. Casual. Beer, wine. Closed Mon. 651-H Maloney Lane. 650.328.2778.

Wild Hare *New American.* $$$$. Given the name, it's no surprise that game fills the menu: boar, duck, venison, bison, quail and untamed *funghi*. And the desserts and wine list are as refined as the meats are wild. Closed Sat-Sun lunch. Full bar. 1029 El Camino Real. 650.327.HARE.

MILPITAS

ABC Seafood *Elegant Chinese.* $$$. Extensive menu features meals from both the land and sea, including duck, suckling pig, fresh fish and Chinese broccoli. Prices may seem a little elevated, but what you get is well worth the expense. Full bar. 768 Barber Lane, Unit 206. 408.435.8888.

Bahay Ihawan *Filipino-American.* $. Honest food in large portions. Lunches are the best deals. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 100 Dixon Rd. 408.945.9055.

Lu Lai Garden *Vegetarian Chinese.* $. Meatless dim sum brings in a lunch crowd. Regular bests: artful veggies, sizzling platters, clay pots. Beer, wine. 210 Barber Ct. 408.526.9888.

Pho Tam *Thai/Vietnamese.* $$. The attractive room belies the low prices. Fusion menu offers mainstays like *bun* and claypots. Beer, wine. Closed Mon. 1720 N. Milpitas Blvd. 408.934.3970.

Swagat *Indian.* $. Swagat explores both southern and northern Indian cuisine in its traditional and extensive menu. Casual. Beer, wine. 68 S. Abel St. 408.262.1128.

Zahir's Café *California.* $$. Coffee-shop comfort mixed with an extensive wine list and a vast menu. Laid-back elegance. Full bar. Closed Sun. 1350 S. Park Victoria Dr, #27. 408.946.4000.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Amber India *Northern Indian, tandoori.* $$. Meals unfold like a bolt of rare silk, served with care and efficiency in a rich, luminous interior. Dishes are as complex and varied as the spectrum of human emotions. 2290 El Camino Real. 650.968.7511.

Austin's *Texas barbecue and steakhouse.* $$. Meat, meat and more meat, with tangy sauces to add. Meats are dry-rubbed and cooked without sauce. Full bar. 1616 W. El Camino Real. 650.969.9191.

Chez TJ *Continental.* $$$$. Three prix fixe menus change monthly and give regulars a taste of what's seasonal and appealing to a chef versed in the art of French sauces. Beer, wine. Closed Sun-Mon. 938 Villa St. 650.964.7466.

China Cafe *Mandarin, Szechuan.* $$. A little surprise in the Blossom Valley Center promises uptown ambience, spotless surroundings and well-presented classical Chinese cuisine—and delivers on all counts. Speaking of delivery, it can be had in parts of Los Altos, Palo Alto and Mountain View. 1760 Miramonte Ave. 650.968.2298.

Don Giovanni *Italian.* $$$. This pumpkin-hued eatery faces the bustling downtown with a handsome demeanor of mahogany, candlelight and posters of the movie *Big Night*. Full bar. V, MC. 235 Castro St. 650.961.9749.

El Calderon *Salvadoran.* $$. Engaging flavors thrive—a few Mexican dishes along with Salvadoran steaks and savory stews. Beer. Closed Sun. 699 Calderon Ave. 650.940.9533.

Global Village Cafe *Fusion.* $$. Sights and bites evoke distant destinations, weaving the dining experience with travel and high-tech overtones. Dishes strike a fine balance, coupling north with south, east with west. 209 Castro St. 650.965.4821.

Le Petit Bistro *Classic French.* $$. There's a lot to like about this pinch of a place with its simple, practiced French cuisine and quiet dining. Casual. Beer, wine. Closed Sun-Mon. 1405 W. El Camino Real. 650.964.3321.

Pho To Chau *Vietnamese noodle house.* $. The *pho* here is an honest noodle soup. First-timers might want to stick with the basic *pho chin*, topped with slices of beef brisket. 853 Villa St. 650.961.8069.

Ryowa *Japanese noodle bar.* $. Weekday lunch offerings draw Japanese nationals. From its pine trimmings to its tight seating, Ryowa shouts authenticity. Closed Mon. 859 Villa St. 650.965.8829.

Taquería Los Charros *Mexican.* $. This clean and fetching diner is the place for authentic fare. Generous portions. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. 854 W. Dana St. 650.969.1464.

Valley Bar and Grill *Innovative.* $$. High ceilings and wood floors make for an atmosphere that is both warm and striking. The menu is a compendium, with innovations of the kitchen and bar-and-grill favorites. Full bar. 194 Castro St. 650.968.1848.

Vaso Azzurro Ristorante *Italian.* $$$. Entrees are attractively presented, and the waiters will make you feel as though you were the most important guests in the place. Dessert lives up to the rest of the meal. Beer, wine. 108 Castro St. 650.940.1717.

Vivaca Grill *New American.* $$$. Sparkling with metropolitan attitude, austere yet elegant Vivaca Grill showcases a menu of New American standards that are anything but standard. Closed Sun. Full bar. 800 California St. 650.318.8010.

Yakko *Japanese, sushi bar.* $$. A pairing of swift service with an exotic range of sushi and udon makes this a favorite among sushi lovers. Casual. Beer, wine. 975 W. Dana St. 650.960.0626.

PALO ALTO

Bella Luna Ristorante Italiano *Italian.* $$$. Sunny Tuscan hues saturate the intimate interior, and the dishes create a tasty illusion of dining in Italy on food prepared by Italian chefs. The pasta, tender yet al dente, is unbelievably good. Beer, wine. 233 University Ave. 650.322.1846.

Bistro Elan *California French.* $$$. The only problem with the menu is that it's all tempting. Using seasonal produce, the chef allows flavors to speak for themselves. Wine, beer. Closed Sun-Mon. 448 California Ave. 650.327.0284.

Buca di Beppo *Nondesigner Italian-American.* $$. Like a Sicilian Christmas carnival in the '50s, this party spot blends clutter, joy, high spirits and, oh yes, huge portions. Go with several friends. 643 Emerson St. 650.329.0665.

Cafe Brioche *Southern French.* $$. Mediterranean magic: exceptional cuisine on oversize plates is whisked to tables as soon as it's created. 445 California Ave. 650.326.8640.

Cafe Riace *Trattoria.* $$. An absolute joy. Every dish is made with honest expertise—no tricky trendiness here—and served with flourish and pride. The homey offerings are based on wholesome Italian staples. Beer, wine. 200 Sheridan Ave. 650.328.0407.

Empire Grill & Tap Room *California grill.* $$. Waiters with charm to spare, an energetic clientele and a menu packed with grilled, roasted and smoked intensity make Empire Grill much more than simply a smart place to sip a cosmopolitan. Full bar. 651 Emerson St. 650.321.3030.

Evvia *Contemporary Aegean.* $$$. Forward flavors and plenty of laughter—that's Dionysian dining. Evvia feels like a little taverna on Paros, only with an unmistakable Bay Area sophistication. Full bar. 420 Emerson St. 650.326.0983.

Fanny & Alexander *New American, with Asian-Cajun spin.* $$$. Spicy Thai shrimp and salmon carpaccio show up as appetizers, while entrees linger in the region of blackened meats and filet mignon in cognac sauce. Full bar. 412 Emerson St. 650.326.7183.

Gordon Biersch *New American.* $$$. Food takes equal billing with ambience and fine handmade beers at the first in this group of successful brewpubs. The menu is so fine-tuned, though, it could thrive even without a brewery attached. Beer, wine. 640 Emerson St. 650.323.7723.

Higashi West *Asian/European.* $$. East meets West in a way that is anything but clichéd. Casually elegant. Full bar. Closed Sun. 636 Emerson St. 650.323.9378.

La Bodeguita del Medio *Cuban/Californian.* $$$. With more than 30 brands of rum in stock, it's stronger in the bar department than in the kitchen, but among the pleasantries are ahi, lobster bisque and Cuban-style Caesar salad. Closed Sun. 463 California Ave. 650.326.7762.

L'Amie Donia *French bistro.* $$$. This relentlessly stylish bistro continues to attract grateful gas-

tronomes with an eclectic wine list and seasonally changing prix fixe offerings. Beer, wine. Closed Sun-Mon. 530 Bryant St. 650.323.7614.

Left at Albuquerque *Southwestern.* $$. Two-fisted burritos, high-wattage margaritas and what may be the best salsa fresca in the West. Casual. Full bar. 445 Emerson St. 650.326.1011.

Mackie's Supper Club *American.* $$$. Cool blue lighting, sultry jazz and an unapologetic reputation for serving top-quality prime rib amid a fair seafood menu make for a cozy little place where one can drink to a good dining experience. 541 Ramona St. 650.326.1446.

Mojo *New American.* $$$. A definite Southern accent inflects this exciting bistro. Meats are expertly grilled to just the point of succulence, flavors are articulate and clear—no trickery, no coverup. Service matches the culinary style. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 543 Emerson St. 650.323.7700.

Nouveau Trattoria *Mediterranean with French accents.* $$$. No dotcom accoutrements clutter up the charmingly nondesigner ambience at Nouveau Trattoria. Owner Annie Nunan puts her personal touch on a steadfastly untrendy menu filled with French classics and heartfelt pastas. Full bar. 541 Bryant St. 650.327.0132.

Osteria *Italian.* $$. Authentic Italian cooking done by skilled chefs from Italy—inventive men willing to explore, yet mindful of Old World standards. Be sure to make a reservation, or you'll be lucky to put a single foot through the door. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 247 Hamilton St. 650.328.5700.

Restaurant Soleil *New American.* $$$$. A mouthwatering menu and an elegant, golden-hued room shine together at Soleil, upstairs in the Westin Palo Alto. Local ingredients and provocative sauces create dishes worthy of the wine list. 675 El Camino Real. 650.321.4422.

St. Michael's Alley *New California.* $$$. Reservations are a must at this smart bistro, whose menu includes inventive potato, meat and seafood dishes that tilt toward New American cookery. Beer, wine. Closed Mon. 806 Emerson St. 650.326.2530.

Spago Palo Alto *Progressive California.* $$$$. Elegantly flashy, with decor as loud as the noise level, Spago provides upscale vivacity. The menu pampers, purrs and occasionally shows some teeth. Full bar. 265 Lytton Ave. 650.833.1000.

Spalti Ristorante *Italian.* $$. Along with a handsome interior, Spalti offers good wine and sparkling flavors. Casual. Beer, wine. 417 California Ave. 650.327.9390.

Straits Cafe *Singapore exotica.* $$. Blending culinary motifs from India, China and Thailand, the food of Singapore is anything but timid. The menu at Straits is lavish and diverse, and desserts are artfully arranged like edible sculptures. Full bar. 3295 El Camino Real. 650.494.7168.

ZAO Noodles *Asian.* $. Putting a hip spin on an ancient culinary art form, this contempo noodle palace purveys many forms of the deliciously messy primal food. Casual. Beer, wine, sake. 261 University Ave. 650.328.1988.

Zibibbo *Mediterranean.* $$$. This eye-popping remodel by the chef-partners of Restaurant LuLu in S.F. offers wood-fired favorites, pastas, risotto and more. Full bar. 430 Kipling St. 650.328.6722.

DOWNTOWN SAN JOSE

Agenda *New American.* $$$. Everything needed for a night on the town: live music on the top floor, New California cuisine on the ground floor and a DJ in the basement. Dressy. Full bar. Closed Sun-Mon. 399 S. First St. 408.287.3991.

A.P Stump's *New American.* $$$$. If Jules Verne had designed a restaurant, this would be it. The setting is gorgeous and the entrees are perfection. Wine list is deep in the best California reds. Full bar. 163 W. Santa Clara St. 408.292.9928.

Bella Mia *Italian-American.* $$$. One of downtown San Jose's most attractive eateries, Bella Mia serves regional dishes with flair. Full bar. 58 S. First St. 408.280.1993.

Camera Cafe *Coffeehouse.* $. Sharing the lobby of the Camera 3 theater, Camera Cafe offers sandwiches and other fast entrees, as well as desserts. Beer, wine. 288 S. Second St. 408.998.0932.

City Bar and Grill *Classic American.* $$$. Big-shouldered food in handsome surroundings is the rule. The steaks are big and juicy, the pot pies better than Grandma used to make. Full bar. 300 Almaden Blvd, inside the Hilton. 408.947.4444.

Chacho's *Mexican.* Flowers, murals and friendly servers provide accompaniment to some of the best chile rellenos around; More than 100 different margaritas. Open seven days. 18 S. Almaden Ave. 408.293.1387.

E & O Trading Company *Southeast Asian.* $$$. You don't have to be a trader to dine like one. Entrees come on playful serving dishes and are beautifully spiced with multi-culti flavors, from Bali to Ceylon and back through Malaysia. Full bar. Open 11:30am to 10:30pm, until midnight on weekends. 96 S. First St. 408.938.4100.

Emile's *Contemporary French.* $$$$. Features white-tablecloth amenities without the stuffiness, and a first-rate menu combining classic, nouvelle and minceur cuisines. Full bar. Closed Sun-Mon. Resv suggested. 545 S. Second St. 408.289.1960.

Eulipia *New American.* $$$. The revamped menu emphasizes robust flavors and beautiful presentations. Several standouts have been retained from the previous menu, as have the sexy Eulipia cocktails. Full bar. 374 S. First St. 408.280.6161.

The Grill on the Alley *American grill.* $$$$. The Fairmont Hotel's newest resident is one good-looking destination for power lunchers, celebrity diners and anybody who needs a great steak. Full bar. 170 S. Market St. 408.294.2244.

House of Siam *Thai.* $. This popular establishment runs the gamut of Thai treasures. Casual. Beer, wine. 55 S. Market St. 408.279.5668.

Il Fornaio *Contemporary Italian.* $$$. The consistency of Il Fornaio's devotion to Italian cuisine and aromatic baked specialties flourishes in its smart location within the Saint Claire Hotel. Urban grill. Full bar. 302 S. Market St. 408.271.3366.

Inca Gardens *Peruvian; South American.* $$. A unique addition to downtown's bistro glut, Inca Gardens boasts authentic Andean fare. Casual. Wine, beer. 87 E. San Fernando St. 408.977.0816.

La Pastaia *Contemporary Italian.* $$$. Grilled meats and fresh seasonal vegetables are treated with an unstudied, almost rustic sense of sophistication. Casual. Full bar. 233 W. Santa Clara, in the Hotel de Anza. 408.286.8686.

Mongo's Mongolian BBQ *Asian.* $. A grand selection of sauces and a sprawling collection of veggies, noodles and tofu. Meats are limited to chicken, beef, lamb and pork. Microbrews, wine. 83 S. Second St. 408.280.1738.

Muchos *Mexican.* $. A small player with a big rotisserie, this taqueria cultivates a devout lunch following. All standards get billing, but the mesquite-roasted chicken is the star. Beer. 72 E. Santa Clara St. 408.277.0333.

Original Joe's *Italian.* $$$. For decades, OJ's hearty portions have fueled both family dinners and business lunches. Full bar. 301 S. First St. 408.292.7030.

Pagoda Restaurant *Chinese.* $$$. The cuisines of China share top billing with the opulence of the decor. Pagoda offers the gamut of regional all-stars. Dressy. Full bar. Closed Sun. Fairmont Hotel, 170 S. Market St. 408.998.3987.

Palermo Ristorante Italiano *Sicilian.* $$$. The restaurant that spawned the South Bay's epidemic of Sicilian restaurants, Palermo feeds its patrons authentic Southern Italian specialties amid a unique collection of memorabilia. Full bar. 394 S. Second St. 408.297.0607.

Paolo's *New Italian.* $$$$. Filled with artistic spins on California-meets-Italy, the kitchen turns out elegant entrees spearheaded by seasonal vegetables. The impeccable service compensates for the modest portions. Full bar. 333 W. San Carlos St. 408.294.2558.

Scott's Seafood *Seafood.* $$$. Culture lovers and power brokers alike find impeccable sourdough, a sea of marine treats and other entrees, and a panoramic view (there's a sister eatery in Palo Alto). For maximum pleasure, get there at sunset. Full bar. 185 Park Ave. 408.971.1700.

71 Saint Peter *New American.* $$$. This romantic eatery provides recipes that speak with a slight French accent, from imaginative appetizers to the always-reliable roast of the evening. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 71 N. San Pedro St. 408.971.8523.

Spiedo Ristorante *Regional Italian.* $$$. With its sexy two-story interior, Spiedo brings a sleek presence to the downtown restaurant scene. Its zesty menu highlights rotisserie dishes. Dinner nightly; lunch weekdays. Full bar. 151 W. Santa Clara Ave. 408.971.6096.

Tied-House Cafe *Brewpub.* $$. Burgers and California cuisine mix well with housemade beers. Especially fun during sports events and happy hour. Casual. Full bar. 65 N. San Pedro St. 408.295.2739. Also Mtn. View: 954 Villa St. 650.965.2739.

Vegetarian House *Vegetarian.* $. This restaurant-cum-temple provides a slew of spiritual paraphernalia along with a menu offering vegetarian dishes from around the world. Casual. 520 E. Santa Clara St. 408.292.3798.

Waves Smokehouse and Saloon *Texas BBQ and more.* $$. Set in one of downtown's historical gems, Waves feeds the taste buds with barbecue, the eyes with an exquisite mahogany and stained-glass bar, and the ears with live and DJ music. Casual. Full bar. 65 Post St. 408.885.9283.

White Lotus *Vegetarian.* $. White Lotus showcases a strictly meatless and eggless menu, offering a

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

wealth of dishes. Casual. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 80 N. Market St. 408.977.0540.

SANTA CLARA

Birk's *American grill.* $$$. What makes Birk's stand out from the rest is a commitment to quality, freshness and hygiene. Experience culinary innovation by concentrating on the specials, or enjoy creative selections from the appetizer menu. Full bar. 3955 Freedom Circle 408.980.6400.

By-Th-Bucket *American.* $$. The menu has been modernized but this landmark has not lost its soul. All walks of humanity rub shoulders here, enjoying just about everything that can be baked, fried, broiled or steamed. Full bar. 4565 Stevens Creek Blvd. 408.248.6244.

Hue's *Vietnamese.* $. Hue's is best summarized as a gentle introduction to Vietnamese cuisine. The best entrees on the menu are *bun*: vermicelli rice noodles, grilled meat and condiments. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 2690 El Camino Real. 408.984.6309.

Katie's Cafe Amore *Italian.* $$. Charming decor and fresh ingredients make this restaurant an endearing find. Though the menu is mostly Italian, there are a few departures which reflect chef Katie Gerrard Scheuch's innovative culinary mind. Closed Mon. 351 Saratoga Ave. 408.246.2333.

Myung Dong Tofu Cabin *Korean.* $. This is the real deal, the first authentic Korean diner in suitsville, priced to keep patrons coming back for bowls of spicy beef, seafood, pickled vegetables, chili soup and, yes, bean curd in its many permutations. 1484 Halford Ave. 408.246.1484.

Pho #1 Noodle House *Asian noodle house.* $. A good and friendly destination when one's stomach screams for a three-course meal but one's wallet has but $10, Pho boasts an ambitious menu of nearly 100 Vietnamese and Chinese items. 5025 Stevens Creek Blvd. 408.249.1111.

Pho Thanh Long *Vietnamese noodle house.* $. This diner's *pho* (beef noodle soup) rates among the top three in the South Bay. Dry rice noodle specials are topped with fresh vegetable, pickled daikon and grilled meats. Casual. Beer. 2450 El Camino Real. 408.983.0888.

SARATOGA

Bella Saratoga *Italian.* $$$. Besides the charming outdoor patio, the menu stores something for every pasta lover. Choosing dessert can be the most difficult (and fun) part of the meal. Full bar. 14503 Big Basin Way. 408.741.5115.

La Fondue *Swiss-American.* $$$. Ensconced in fantasy dining chambers that simulate castles and sorcerers' lairs, diners cook their own repasts in wine, bouillon, oil or cheese, and dip fruits in chocolate and liqueur for dessert. Two seatings nightly; reservations recommended. Beer, wine. 14510 Big Basin Way. 408.867.3332.

La Mere Michelle *Classic French.* $$$. Some fine flavors and some anachronisms make the longstanding La Mere Michelle a study in contrasts, from its extensive wine list to such culinary chestnuts as lobster Newburg. Dressy. Full bar. Closed Mon. 14467 Big Basin Way. 408.867.5272.

Le Mouton Noir *New American.* $$$$. The kitchen leans toward nouvelle rather than gargantuan American presentation, and the chef seems devoted to organic and seasonal ingredients. Full bar. 14560 Big Basin Way. 408.867.7017.

Masu *Japanese.* $$$. Unpretentious, charmingly schizophrenic Masu aims to please everybody. Avoid the pasta and head for the *zensai* (beef sashimi, prawns in bacon) or nigiri sushi. Beer, wine. 14510 Big Basin Way. 408.868.0600.

Sent Sovi *Contemporary French California.* $$$$. Inventive flavors and stunning visuals make Sent Sovi stand out even on Saratoga's restaurant row. Casually elegant. Beer, wine. Dinner only; closed Mon. 14583 Big Basin Way. 408.867.3110.

Viaggio Ristorante Mediterraneo *Mediterranean.* $$$. Viaggio makes a hit in the midst of Saratoga's well-crafted restaurant gold coast. From smart service to disarmingly delicious dishes, everything invites leisurely enjoyment. Full bar. Closed Mon. 14550 Big Basin Way. 408.741.5300.

SUNNYVALE

Afghani House *Afghani.* $$. Fans of Persian cuisine will love this place. The restaurant feels lush without being garish, and ethnic without being touristy. 1103 E. El Camino Real. 408.248.5088.

Banjara *South Indian.* $. Though the setting shouts American diner, the atmosphere's enjoyable—especially for those who find that low prices create the best sort of ambience. 407 Town & Country Village. 408.737.9151.

Faz Sunnyvale *Mediterranean, California grill.* $$. The menu offers foods long on Riviera/Middle Eastern and rotisserie concepts. Dressy. Full bar. 1108 N. Mathilda Ave. 408.752.8000.

Kabul *Afghan* $$$. Kabul is a labor of love for Najib and Adib Naimi, whose delicious Afghan specialties include wonderful kebabs in aromatic spices, beef and lamb simmered with eggplant in tomato, garlic and onion, plus vegetarian entrees full of flavor and natural juices. Clean, elegant surroundings and efficient service round out this superlative affair. 833 W. El Camino Real. 408.245.4350.

Lion & Compass *Pacific Rim.* $$$. The original Silicon Valley power spot, Lion & Compass still exudes a reassuring traditionalism. But the real excitement is in a menu that is sexy, inventive and anything but Mediterranean. Full bar. Closed Sun. 1023 N. Fair Oaks Ave. 408.745.1260.

The Palace *Contemporary American.* $$$. Unique architectural setting and award-winning cuisine. Seasonal menu includes tapas, pastas, wild game, steaks, seafood and local organic produce. Live jazz combo. Reservations advised. Full bar. Closed Sun-Mon. 146 S. Murphy Ave. 408.739.5179.

Palace BBQ Buffet *Korean.* $$. Truly palatial, this buffet caters to the Inner Kid: cook over a fire, eat with your fingers and generally pig out on the stupefying array of food. Casual. Closed Mon. 1092 E. El Camino Real. 408.554.9292.

Pezzella's Villa Napoli *Italian.* $$$. The family-style eatery has nurtured loyal patrons for four decades with homey food and friendly smiles. Full bar. Closed Sun-Mon. 1025 W. El Camino Real. 408.738.2400.

Pho Cuong #4 *Vietnamese noodle house.* $. This brightly lit diner soups up some of the best al dente rice noodles in Santa Clara County. 1028 El Camino Real. 408.730.9776.

Sahari Restaurant *Egyptian, Mediterranean.* $. Sahari's menu wanders along the Eastern Mediterranean, with an emphasis on Egyptian favorites. Casual. Beer, wine. Closed Sun. 126 E. Fremont Ave. 408.245.1448.

Tao Tao *Cantonese.* $$. Start in the Ho Tao Lounge, one of the most engaging local watering holes. Then hit the dining chambers, where servers dish out Chinese cuisine's greatest hits. Full bar. 175 S. Murphy Ave. 408.736.3731.

Tarragon *California/Pacific Rim.* $$$. Smart decor and food served with panache create a setting that business executives and lovers alike can enjoy. Plenty of flair, but no attitude. Full bar. 140 S. Murphy Ave. 408.737.8003.

WILLOW GLEN

Aqui Cal-Mex Grill *Border cuisine.* $. Revisionist Mexican food at its finest, including vegan options and heart-healthy dishes. For extra fun, hit the Western-flavored bar for dynamite tequila drinks. Casual. 1145 Lincoln Ave. 408.995.0381.

Giuseppe Italian Bistro *Italian.* $$$. Gorgeous bowls of pasta and expertly grilled meat are devoured from the depths of wraparound booths. Full bar. 1072 Lincoln Avenue. 408.292.4866. Also at 33 S. Central Ave, Campbell. 408.370.7705.

Mio Vicino *Contemporary Italian.* $$. The latest from a local eatery that morphed into a mini-chain for many reasons, including exceptional pastas, pizzas and seafood, plus superior house wine. Casual. Beer, wine. 1140-8 Lincoln Ave. 408.286.6027.

Taiwan Restaurant *Chinese.* $$. This Willow Glen landmark serves a stream of Szechwan, Cantonese and Taiwanese specialties. Casual. Beer, wine. 1306 Lincoln Ave. 408.289.8800.

Taquería Tlaquepáque *Mexican.* $. All the usual dishes rank above average, but it's the extra touches that make this place stand out: amazing breakfasts and deliciously tart margaritas. 2222 Lincoln Ave. 408.978.3665.

White Dove Cafe *California/New American.* $$$. A haven of dining peace, the Dove continues in its devotion to freshly made foods with friendly prices. Dinners include soup or salad. 1167 Lincoln Ave. 408.280.5297.

Willow Street Wood-Fired Pizza *Designer Italian.* $$. From this homey brick-walled eatery grew a successful group of pizzerias, including a bustling outpost in Los Gatos. In addition to the gourmet pies, options include pasta and special entrees. Casual. Beer, wine. 1072 Willow St. 408.971.7080.

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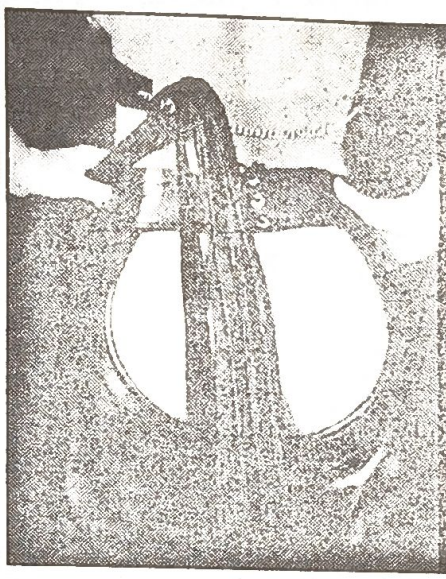

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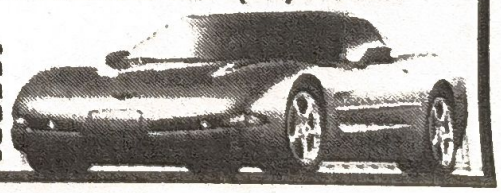

metro

Monday the Fifth

Dr. Madd Vibe If you've seen Fishbone, you know what a captivating performer Angelo Moore can be. With his alter-ego side project, the Fishbone frontman delves into the realm of spoken word and poetry where he uses music as a backdrop to his provocative thoughts. His second recording, *The Yin Yang Thang*, addresses racism, social issues, family and the music industry, and his highly charged live performances are full of passion and energy. Richard Delvone Ray (a.k.a. the Mid-City Finite Square) opens this early show.

Cactus Club, 417 S. First St, San Jose; doors at 5pm; $7; 408.491.9300. **(SQ)**

01 Thursday

Dread Zeppelin Something of a novelty act, this entertaining band plays Led Zeppelin cover tunes with a reggae style. Its lineup includes TortElvis (vocals), Jah Paul Jo (guitar), Fresh Cheese (drums), Put-Mon (bass) and Ed Zeppelin (bongos). The unit is currently touring to support its latest, *Dejah Voodoo*, which includes "Kashmir," "The Lemon Song" and "D'yer Mak'er." Locally based Triplex, known for its fluid mixture of hip-hop, reggae, dancehall and R&B, brings its positive vibe to the club as well.

The Usual, 400 S. First St, San Jose; doors at 8pm; $10; 408.535.0330. **(SQ)**

Nostalgia Dancing Sun Foundation presents "Nostalgia," a performance of contemporary dance and Taiwanese folk music from the '40s. Singers Tsai Jenn Nan and Chyi Chin perform the most popular and well-known Taiwanese folksongs from the 1940s, with Bih-Tau Sung's modern choreography illustrating the long-suppressed emotions of the Taiwanese people that the songs evoke. Part of the Downtown Arts Series.

The Stage, 490 S. First St, San Jose; 8pm; $12; 408.283.7142. **(EW)**

02 Friday

Grito Serpentino Truly a force to be reckoned with on the local spoken-word scene, performance group/band Grito Serpentino should fill the intimate space of the Stage theater with ringing poetry and funky, bluesy grooves in "Downtown When Ya Brown," a musical/poetic show that's part of the Downtown Arts Series.

The Stage, 490 S. First St, San Jose; 8pm; $12; 408.283.7142. **(EW)**

Sunday the Fourth

Sierra Maestra A true old-school *son* band, Havana's Sierra Maestra is so serious about musical heritage, it even takes its name from the Cuban mountain range that's considered the birthplace of *son*. Since the late 1970s, this well-loved group has gotten Cuba on its feet with a revival of the old-style *son* popular during the '20s and '30s, amping it up a bit with additional percussion and an electric bass. Over the years, Sierra Maestra's extensive touring everywhere from Angola to Iceland to Switzerland has garnered the band an enthusiastic following worldwide. Sierra Maestra's newest CD is *Tibiri Tabara*.

Fuel, 44 Almaden Ave, San Jose; 4:30pm; $18 doors/$15; 408.295.7374. **(HZ)**

Kofy Brown This soulful funk diva is highly respected in the Bay Area music community. Known for powerful songs and a riveting stage presence, Brown brings her remarkable sense of style to the new Icon Supperclub. The band she plays with generally includes drummer Maurice Miles, guitarist Brian Hill, keyboardist Michael Wayne Meyers and bassist Spencer Murray.

Icon Supperclub, 260 California Ave, Palo Alto; 9pm; free before 10pm/$10 after 10pm/free with dinner; 650.289.0222. **(SQ)**

California Bach Society No composer living today has affected the state of choral music as profoundly as Estonian native Arvo Pärt. Kudos to the California Bach Society for once again incorporating music of our time within the scope of baroque music's favorite son. Pärt's *Passio* resuscitates the rapturous biblical accounts of the Passion according to St. John in a musical dialect that combines 17th-century modal practices with contemporary aesthetics.

All Saints' Episcopal Church, 555 Waverley St, Palo Alto; 8pm; $25 general, $18 senior, $12 students; 650.299.8616. **(PC)**

San Jose Symphony Alert, Wagnerites (and you know who you are): San Jose Symphony is bringing *Bayreuth* to the Bay Area. OK, minor exaggeration. However, three scenes from *Gotterdämmerung* (Twilight of the Gods) add up to a lot more Wagner than we usually hear around here. Soprano Carmella Jones' unflappable musicianship takes on Siegried's "Rhine Journey" and "Funeral March," along with Brunhilde's "Immolation." Guest conductor Roberto Paternostro forges the way through Wagner's pathos as well as Schumann's ironically optimistic Symphony no. 4.

San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd, San Jose; Fri-Sat at 8pm; $17-$47; also at Flint Center, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino; Sun at 2:30pm; $15-$38; 408.288.2828. **(PC)**

guide

Friday the Second

Anton Schwartz After christening the stage at the grand opening of Jacek Rosicki's new Icon Supperclub in Palo Alto on Feb. 15, this saxophonist and composer performs at the newly implemented jazz series taking place inside the Cellar at Rosicki's downtown San Jose club, Agenda. The tenor player's music is touched by the influence of greats like John Coltrane, Stanley Turrentine and Ben Webster, and his albums *When Music Calls* and the more recent *The Slow Lane* have been extremely well received.

The Cellar at Agenda, 399 S. First St, San Jose; doors at 8pm; $5/free admission with dinner; 408.287.4087. **(SQ)**

03 Saturday

Phatty Patty Grand Fanali Presents put together this annual battle of the high school bands. This year's event includes 5606, Ground, Slip to Save You, Olympic Year, Manic Notion and Corrosive Eight.

Fremont High School, Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd, Sunnyvale; 2pm; $5; all ages; 408.730.2780. **(SQ)**

Floppy Rods Infectious in its easygoing nature, this local five-piece has crafted a highly appealing debut with the cleverly titled five-song demo *Sinus* (get it?). With surprisingly keen Latin and reggae nuances, the songs are super-funky and full of groove. It should be a good lineup as the band makes a nice fit with Willie's Conception, Monkey and Funkranomicon.

Cactus Club, 417 S. First St; doors at 8:30pm; cover varies; 408/491.9300. **(SQ)**

Mifune and Me Asian actors have become more visible on American movie screens of late—late being the key word. But predating the popularity of stars like Jackie Chan and Chow Yun-Fat are 100 years of horrible stereotypes and cartoonishly villainous roles for Asian and Asian American actors, a still not-uncommon blight that actor Lane Nishikawa takes to task in his comic, multimedia one-man show, *Mifune and Me*. Part of the Downtown Arts Series.

The Stage, 490 S. First St, San Jose; Sat at 8pm, Sun at 2pm; $12; 408.283.7142. **(AR)**

Cuentos y Cantos Commodified, packaged, trapped, compartmentalized—these are some of the conditions suggested by the title of Julia S. Gonzalez Luna's play, *Mujeres Encajadas (Boxed Women)*. The words also describe the lifelong struggle of the play's protagonist, Abuelita, as an uninvited spirit comes to dwell in her box-filled life: Rage. The play is about Abuelita's attempt, through the gift of a homemade altar filled with spirits like Humility and Fortitude, to package up power and freedom and pass them on to her granddaughter, Soqui. In the end, everyone's battles are their own, and, for Soqui, Abuelita's gift turns out to be just the beginning. The play's premiere will be a reading that brings Luna's lush, poetic text to the fore. Also featured at this Cuentos y Cantos show will be a spoken word and music performance by CALIFAZ.

MACLA, 510 S. First St, San Jose; open mic starts at 7pm, show starts at 8pm; free admission before 8pm/$5 after 8pm; 408.998.ARTE. **(MM)**

St. Petersburg Quartet You can consider the St. Petersburg String Quartet a pretty sure bet; after all, they've won just about every international award there is. This ensemble's prowess is nothing less than legion and in an all-Russian program you will hear patriotism at its best. For their single Bay Area performance the St. Petersburgers offer acres of native soil. The program features Borodin, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky, and rest assured you'll be hearing this group in their element.

Carriage House Theatre at Montalvo, 15400 Montalvo Rd, Saratoga; 8pm; $30/$40; 408.961.5858. **(PC)**

TICKET WINDOW

Karen Finley: Mar 9 at San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (408.283.8155)
Kronos Quartet: Mar 10 at Stanford's Memorial Auditorium (650.725.ARTS)
Jimmy Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band: Mar 17 at San Jose Arena (408.998.TIXS)
The Black Brothers: Mar 18 at the King's Head Pub (408.871.2499)
Adelberto Alveraz y Su Son: Mar 29 at the Usual (510.601.TWEB)
matchbox twenty: Mar 31 at San Jose Arena (408.998.TIXS)
Outkast: Mar 26 at San Jose State Event Center (408.998.BASS)
Samiam: Mar 31 at the Catalyst (831.423.1336)
Peter Lamson and Karen Tyler: Apr 28 at Espresso Garden and Cafe (408.292.7940)

Tickets for most events are available through BASS at 408.998.BASS or Ticketmaster at 408.998.TIXS. or at http://ticketweb.com

04 Sunday

Alien Crime Syndicate Led by ex-frontman of the Meices, Joe Reineke (formerly known as Joe Meice), this band formed in 1997 and features Reineke on vocals and guitar, Jeff Rouse on bass, Nabil Ayers on drums and Mike Squires on guitar. Its first full-length recording, *Dust to Dirty*, delivers swirling guitar-heavy space rock with catchy pop sensibilities. Chris Landon and his band also perform.

Fuel, 44 Almaden Ave, San Jose; doors at 8pm; $6; 408.295.7374. **(SQ)**

Saxophone Quartet You ever wonder what saxophone music was like during the 17th century? The Amherst Saxophone Quartet offers a sound hypothesis with their Renaissance program featuring transcriptions of vocal scores by Josquin Desprez and John Dowland. Although these ancient jewels have endured centuries of abusive adaptations, the saxophone quartet offers an accommodating medium for the melodic interplays of this repertoire. Sponsored by the San Jose Chamber Music Society.

Le Petit Trianon, 72 N. Fifth St, San Jose; 7pm; $20-$25 general/$15 seniors/$10 students; 408.286.5111. **(PC)**

Community Day The San Jose Museum of Art gets its new exhibits, *Contemporary Devotion* and *El Favor de los Santos*, off to a good start, and it celebrates the success of the current exhibit *Carmen Lomas Garza: A Retrospective* with a day of free admission and exciting activities. Garza makes an appearance and will sign her books; music and dance performances by local groups will be featured throughout the day, along with informal artists' talks and hands-on art activities for kids.

San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St, San Jose; 10am-5pm; free admission all day; 408.294.2787. **(EW)**

Calif. Youth Symphony So what are the kids up to now? As always, count on brilliant music-making. Ninety-one of the most promising young players from the greater Bay Area offer a free matinee including Britten's rarely encountered *Matinee Musicales* and Smetana's Three Dances from the *Bartered Bride*, along with works by Auber, Nicolai and Herold.

Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Rd, Los Altos Hills; 2pm; free; 650.325.6666. **(PC)**

06 Tuesday

Itzhak Perlman World-renowned virtuoso violinist Itzhak Perlman has won his share of awards—among many, many others, 15 Grammys, and four Emmys, even—but tonight the master performs a program honoring Jascha Heifetz, a violinist Perlman himself counts as the first major modern violin virtuoso.

Memorial Auditorium, Stanford; 8pm; $32-$46; 650.725.ARTS. **(AR)**

07 Wednesday

Paddy Keenan How do bagpipers get music out of a bagpipe? Some curmudgeons might argue they don't, but for everyone else, there's twice the marvel in the musicianship of Paddy Keenan, a master of the more complex uilleann pipes. Keenan first became known in the '70s as one of the founders of seminal Irish folk group the Bothy Band and has gone on to a very successful solo career. He coaxes nuanced, expressive playing from the Irish pipes with lively, bouncing jigs and reels and soft, mournful airs.

The King's Head, 201 Orchard City Dr, Campbell; 8pm; $13 general/$12 Celtic Society members; 408.847.6982. **(EW)**

Calendar choices by Jim Aquino **(JA)**, Philip Collins **(PC)**, Val Hall **(VH)**, Sarah Quelland **(SQ)**, Al Roberts **(AR)**, Elmann Washington **(EW)** and Heather Zimmerman **(HZ)**.

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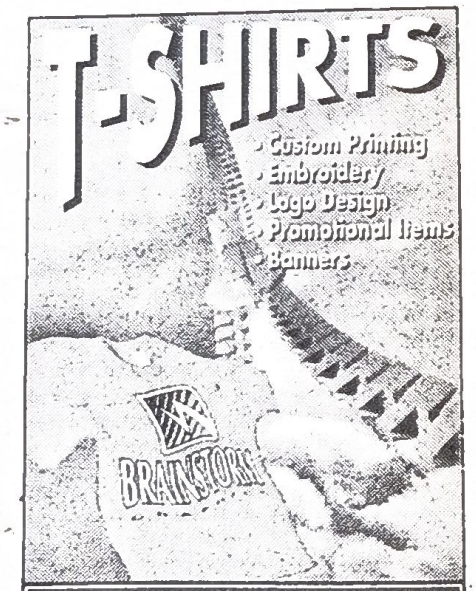

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Stage Dance Opera

DANCE

Nostalgia Dancing Sun Foundation presents a program of modern dance and Taiwanese folk music from the 1940s. Thu, 8pm. $12. The Stage, 490 S. First St, San Jose, 408.283.7142.

ODC/San Francisco Renowned Bay Area modern dance troupe ODC/San Francisco performs. Sat, 8pm. $5-$18. Ohlone College Smith Center, 43600 Mission Blvd, Fremont, 510.659.6031.

OPERA

White Darkness Oakland Opera Theater presents an opera which offers a look at the Bay Area circa 1978 through the eyes of a young woman. Socre by Tom Dean, based on an opera by Prokofiev. Fri-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2pm. Opens Mar 2. $15-$20. Mountain View Center, 500 Castro St, Mountain View, 650.903.6000.

THEATER

Aliens in America San Jose Repertory Theatre presents a one-woman show by Sandra Tsing Loh. Thru March 4. Thu-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 3 and 8pm, Sun, 2pm (closing). $17-$37. San Jose Repertory Theatre, 101 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, 408.367.7255.

Anne of Green Gables Peninsula Youth Theatre. Fri, 7:30pm, Sat, 1 and 7:30pm, Sun, 1pm. Thru Mar 4. $12-$14. Mountain View Center, 500 Castro St, Mountain View, 650.903.6000.

Annie Sunnyvale Community Players present a n all-youth production. Thu, 7:30pm, Fri-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7:30pm. $11-$13 Fri-Sun/$8 all seats Thu. Sunnyvale Community Center, 550 E. Remington Dr, Sunnyvale, 408.733.6611.

Big Lil's Cabaret *A Gypsy's Curse*, an interactive comedy and vaudeville review. Fri-Sat, show begins at 8pm, dinner served at 7pm. Opens Mar 2. $40 show and dinner/$20 show only. Reservations required. Big Lil's Cabaret, 157 W. San Fernando St, San Jose, 408.295.7469.

Candide Los Gatos High School presents a musical theater production of Voltaire's political satire *Candide*. Fri-Sat, 8pm. $10-$12. Los Gatos High School, 20 High School Court, Los Gatos, 408.354.2730.

Downtown When Ya Brown Spoken-word performance group Grito Serpentino performs a mix of poetry and music. Fri, 8pm. $12. The Stage, 490 S. First St, San Jose, 408.283.7142.

The Fantasticks Saratoga Drama Group. Thru March 3. Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm (closing). $18 Fri-Sat/$16 Thu and Sun. Saratoga Civic Theater, 13777 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga, 408.264.3110.

Far East TheatreWorks presents the West Coast premiere of a new comedy by A.R. Gurney. Thru Apr 8. Wed, 8pm (preview). $20-$38. Lucie Stern Theatre, 1305 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto, 650.903.6000.

Gaslighter Theater *Tatters* or *The Pet of Squatters Gulch*, melodrama and vaudeville. Fri-Sat, 8pm. Call for tickets. Gaslighter Theater, 400 E. Campbell Ave, Campbell, 408.866.1408.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change Theatre on San Pedro Square. Thu-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2pm, Wed, 8pm. Thru May 27. $20-$30. Theatre on San Pedro Square, 29 N. San Pedro St, San Jose, 408.283.0200.

The Importance of Being Earnest Northside Theatre Company. Thu-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm. Thru Mar 4. $10-$12. Northside Theatre Company, 848 E. William St, San Jose, 408.288.7820.

In Search of My Clitoris Global Women Intact founder Sia Amma addresses the practice of female genital cutting in this one-woman show. A fundraiser for GWI. Sat, 7:30pm. Call for ticket information. Stanford University Cubberley and Annenberg Auditorium, Stanford, 650.723.1995.

Into the Woods Foothill College Musical Theatre. Ends Mar 18. Fri-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2pm. $12-$17. Foothill College Studio Theater, 12345 El Monte Rd, Los Altos Hills, 650.948.4444.

Jaime 22 California Theatre Center presents theater for families. A science fiction/time-traveling fairytale for grades 3 and up. Sat, 11am. $12/$11. Sunnyvale Community Center, 550 E. Remington Dr, Sunnyvale, 408.245.2978.

Junk Bonds San Jose State University theatre arts department presents a comedy about power and sexual politics on Wall Street. Ends Mar 3. Thu-Sat, 7pm. $10/$6. SJSU University Theatre, S. Fifth and E. San Fernando streets, San Jose, 408.924.4551.

Life Is a Dream Stanford University department of drama presents a drama by Pedro Calderon de la Barca. Wed, 7pm. $5. Nitery Theater, Stanford University Old Union, Stanford, 650.725.ARTS.

Lost and Found: A Musical Revue Harmony Players and Co presents a musical revue of Disney songs. Fri-Sat, 7:30pm, Sun, 2:30pm. Opens Mar 2. $12/$10. Harmony Players and Co., 32653 Alvarado Blvd, Union City, 510.487.2343.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Calaveras Repertory Theatre. Thu-Sat, 8pm. Thru Mar 17. $15 adults/$8 students. Ayer Education Center, 1000 Building, 1331 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, 408.945.5544.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Stanford University department of drama. Thu-Fri, 7pm, Sat, 2 and 7pm. $5-$10. Stanford University, Stanford, 650.725.ARTS.

Mifune and Me Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene presents Lane Nishikawa's multi-media play, which explores Hollywood's portrayals of Asian Americans. Sat, 8pm, Sun, 2pm. $12. The Stage, 490 S. First St, San Jose, 408.283.7142.

On Golden Pond Santa Clara Players. Thru Mar 24. Fri-Sat, 8pm. $9. Triton Museum Hall Pavilion, Don Avenue near Warburton, Santa Clara, 408.248.7993.

Schoolhouse Rock Live! San Jose Children's Musical Theater presents a Junior Series production. Thru March 4. Thu-Fri, 7pm, Sat, noon, 4 and 8pm, Sun, noon, 3 and 6pm. $13/$10. Montgomery Theater, Market and San Carlos streets, San Jose, 408.288.5437.

Steal Away Tabia African American Theatre Ensemble. Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8pm (Gala reception), Sun, 3pm. $20 general/$50 gala reception. Mexican Heritage Plaza, Alum Rock Avenue and S. King Road, San Jose, 800.642.8482.

Suburban Motel, Part 2 City Lights Theater presents the second set in a series of four short works from George F. Walker's collection of plays, *Suburban Motel*. Thu-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7pm. $18 Fri-Sat/$15 Thu and Sun (students half price Thu-Fri and Sun). City Lights Theater Co, 529 S. Second St, San Jose, 408.295.4200.

Vagina Monologues Stanford University presents a student-production of Eve Ensler's play. Sun, 8pm. Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford, 650.725.ARTS.

Art Shows

MUSEUMS

OPENING

Ainsley House *A Masquerade Ball at the Ainsley House*. An exhibit of costumes from recent and upcoming Opera San Jose productions will be on display at the 1925 Tudor Revival historic Ainsley House museum. Opens Mar 1. 300 Grant St, Campbell, 408.866.2118.

Forbes Mill History Museum *There's No Place Like Home*. An exhibit of vintage aprons and other domestic items. Curated by Bonnie Stone. Opens Mar 7. 75 Church St, Los Gatos, 408.395.7375.

Los Gatos Museum of Art and Natural History *Sixth Annual Los Gatos Kids' Art Event*. Opens Mar 4. W. Main Street and Tait Avenue, Los Gatos, 408.354.2646.

San Jose Museum of Art *El Favor de los Santos: The Retablo Collection of New Mexico State University*. Opens Mar 4. *Contemporary Devotion*. An exhibit of contemporary works informed by Mexican retablos. Opens Mar 4. 110 S. Market St, San Jose, 408.294.2787.

Triton Museum of Art *Creative Research Series I: Anticipatory Preparatory*. Works by Leroy Parker. Opens Mar 6. *Harvesting Profit*. An installation by Lisa Dale Miller. Part of the New Works by California Artists series of exhibitions. Opens Mar 6. 1505 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara, 408.247.3754.

CONTINUING EXHIBITS

Children's Discovery Museum The museum offers families fun, educational, interactive exhibits in the arts, humanities, science and tech-

REVIEW

Sticking Together

No one's too old for a little larceny in Tabia's 'Steal Away'

GIRL POWER is hardly a new phenomenon, as Ramona King's comedy *Steal Away* proves and Tabia African-American Theatre Ensemble's current production demonstrates. In Chicago during the early 1930s, the ladies of the NWOYE (Negro Women's Organization for Youth Education) have sent several young women from their church to college, financing the girls' tuition with bake sales. Their efforts have been a success, but now, the Depression threatens the organization.

As this crisis worsens, the NWOYE welcomes home its most recent graduate, Tracy (Sonya Stamper), who the ladies hope—and expect—will teach at a neighborhood school. However, college has not just educated Tracy academically. Inspired by a research subject who reclaimed land stolen from him by white men, she's spent the last two years formulating a plan to keep the NWOYE financially sound for good: a bank heist. Of course, the ladies will have none of it, until the local bank turns them down for a loan, the loan officer nastily contending that "Negro children don't need an education."

Tracy's plan relies on the absurdity of church ladies, most of them elderly, robbing a bank—no one would ever suspect them, she rightly maintains. Likewise, King uses the fish-out-of-water premise as the source for much of the play's comedy. Director Buddy Butler mines these moments for the play's best laughs, making a true comic spectacle out of scenes of the ladies perusing bank floor plans and hefting Tommy guns. The actors play such scenes with obvious relish, but all the while maintaining the dignity of these iron butterflies. In a sense, these ladies are all out of their element in a world that generally expects them to just turn the other cheek—none of them is a quitter. Jean Hawkins gives a particularly strong performance as the deceptively frail Stella, Tracy's grandmother and the matriarch of the group. Adaku Davis brings tenderness and depth to the timid and shy, but not-so-retiring Jade.

Although *Steal Away* is most definitely a character-driven piece, at times the production loses momentum when it digresses from the central plot to explore the backstories—or fantasy backstories—of some of its characters. For instance, a play-acted, *High Noon*–style "showdown" between Renita (Gayle Hedwig Rucker) and Beulah (Sharon Moore) makes hilarious use of the pseudo-antagonistic energy between these two characters, but Butler lets the play's generally high-speed, slapstick pace flag in a scene that needs tight comic timing.

When it comes to the actual heist, it's a series of Keystone Cops moments for these novice criminals. At times, we get to see the actors' talents for physical comedy. Armed with flashlights, guns and all the tools of true burglars, the ensemble shows us a bunch of real bunglers.

No matter how amateurish their attempts at robbery, however, the ladies' efforts sum up a major theme of *Steal Away*: the importance of sticking together in the face of adversity, a subject on which Tracy lectures the ladies often, but which it's clear they already understand well. Although the robbery plan is initially divisive among the ranks of the NWOYE, the ladies come together on it simply for the good of the community—the guiding purpose of their organization in the first place. King celebrates the community spirit of such women, demonstrating, albeit hyperbolically, the power of women united.

Heather Zimmerman

Steal Away plays Friday–Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm at the Mexican Heritage Plaza, 1700 Alum Rock Road, San Jose. Tickets are $20 general/$50 for Saturday's gala reception. (800.MHC.VIVA)

nology. 180 Woz Way, San Jose, 408.298.5437.

Community Museum Exhibits include antique looms, dolls and more than 40 original portraits. Visitors can also participate in hands-on weaving demonstrations every Sunday, 2-6pm. Ongoing. Silent Auction Table. Paintings, ceramics and other artworks available for silent bidding. Items will be changed daily. Ongoing. Mon-Thu, 11am-7pm, Fri, 11am-4pm, Sun, noon-6pm. 559 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, 408.942.1776.

de Saisset Museum *Father Hubbard: Glacier Priest.* Ends Jun 24. *Alaska Gold: Life on the New Frontier, 1898-1906.* Ends Jun 24. *Symbol and Allegory Unraveled: Vestments and Religious Objects from Mission Santa Clara de Asis.* Ends Jun 24. Tue-Sun, 11am-4pm. Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, 408.554.4528.

Euphrat Museum of Art *Angel Island and Immigration Stories of the 20th and 21st Centuries: Drama, Contradictions, New Neighbors, Coalitions.* Closed Mar 31 and Apr 14. Ends Apr 19. Tue, 11am-4pm and 6-8pm, Wed-Thu, 11am-4pm, Sat, 11am-2pm. De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd,

Continued on next page

MAKING WAVES, ROCKING THE BOAT...

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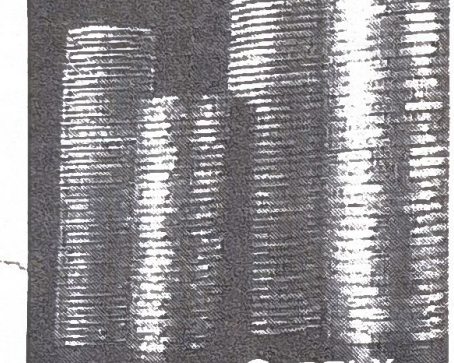

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Continued from previous page

Cupertino, 408.864.8836.

History Park A 25-acre site with more than 27 restored and reconstructed buildings. *Object Obsession: Collecting the Ordinary and the Extraordinary.* Also: *Re:collections*, photographs by David Pace. Ends Apr 2. Tue-Sun, noon-5pm. 1600 Senter Rd, San Jose, 408.287.2290.

Palo Alto Art Center *Conscience & Celebration: Posada's Graphics and Mexican Folk Sculpture.* Ends Apr 29. Tue-Sat, 10am-5pm, Tue-Thu, 7-10am, Sun, 1-5pm. 1313 Newell Rd, Palo Alto, 650.329.2366.

Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo *149 Cubic Meters of San Francisquito Creek.* For ages 2-12. Ongoing. Tue-Sat, 10am-5pm. 1451 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto, 650.329.2111.

Peralta Adobe/Fallon House Historical Homes. Peralta Adobe, built in 1797, is San Jose's oldest civil settlement. Across the street, tour the Fallon House, a Victorian mansion built in 1855 by San Jose's seventh mayor, Thomas Fallon. Ongoing. Tue-Sun, noon-5pm (last tours leave at 3:30pm). 175 W. St. John St, San Jose, 408.993.8182.

Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum A collection of Egyptian artifacts, including mummies, ritual items and a replica of a tomb. Ongoing. Tue-Fri, 10am-5pm, Sat-Sun, 11am-6pm. Naglee and Park avenues, San Jose, 408.947.3636.

San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles *Expressions of Freedom: Quilts Celebrating Human Rights.* Ends Mar 25. Tue-Wed, Fri-Sat, 10am-5pm, Thu, 10am-8pm. 110 Paseo de San Antonio, San Jose, 408.971.0323.

Saratoga Historical Museum *Remembering Saratoga and World War II.* Ongoing. Fri-Sun, 1-4pm. 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Rd, Saratoga, 408.867.4311.

The Tech Museum of Innovation A museum showcasing a variety of exhibits relating to technology and featuring an IMAX theater. Ongoing. Daily, 10am-5pm. 201 S. Market St, San Jose, 408.294.TECH.

Wings of History Air Museum Antique Aircraft Museum. Features more than 20 aircraft, photographs and exhibits. Ongoing. Tue and Thu, 10am-3pm, Sat-Sun, 11am-4pm. 12777 Murphy Ave, San Martin, 408.683.2290.

GALLERIES

OPENING

706 Gallery *In a Silent Way.* Pastels on paper by Takashi Yamatatsu. Opens Mar 1. 706 S. Eighth St, San Jose, 408.293.7578.

Elemental Arts Gallery *Reinvent Yourself.* Selected artwork from the Association of Clay & Glass Artists of California. Opens Mar 1. 104 University Ave, Los Gatos, 408.354.6608.

Gallery Morgan Hill Paintings on Silk by Renee Angela Filice. Opens Mar 7. 17490 S. Monterey Rd, Morgan Hill, 408.776.7990.

Gallery Saratoga *Katazome.* Textiles dyed in a traditional Japanese dyeing technique by Chie Kurahashi. Opens Mar 1. 14531 Big Basin Way #3, Saratoga, 408.867.0458.

Pacific Art League of Palo Alto *Masked/Unmasked.* A juried exhibit of works in a variety of media which explores face, figure and psyche. Juried by artist Roberta Loach. Opens Mar 5. *Islands in the Sun.* Oil and gouache paintings by Nancie Crowley. Opens Mar 2. 668 Ramona St, Palo Alto, 650.321.3891.

SCU Art Department Gallery *Contemplating the Classics: Or How I Made It Through Art History 101.* Paintings and sculptural installation by M. Louise Stanley. Opens Mar 6. Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, 408.554.4594.

Viewpoints Gallery *Painted Places.* A group show featuring paintings, etchings, drawings, pottery and jewelry. Opens Mar 3. 315 State St, Los Altos, 650.941.5789.

ZYT Galerie *An Etching Show, Old Masters and New.* Opens Mar 1. 923 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, 650.948.6770.

CONTINUING EXHIBITS

Aegis Gallery *Ambient Lights.* Ceramic sculpture by Mahoko Dahte. Ends Mar 25. Tue-Thu, 11am-7pm, Fri-Sat, 11am-9pm, Sun, 11am-7pm. 14531 Big Basin Way #2, Saratoga, 408.867.0171.

Art Object Gallery Works by Eileen Hill, Ken Matsumoto, Reid Winfrey, Jaap Bongers and David Ogle. 592 N. Fifth St, San Jose, 408.288.9305.

Cafe Rouge *Gravity of Spirit.* A collection of computer-generated art by Julien Ferreira. Ends Mar 23. 42 Elm St., Los Gatos, 408.395.1599.

Circle-A Skateboards/Gallery *Sins & Woes.* Works by Johnny Mojo. Ends Mar 20. Mon-Sat, 10am-9pm, Sun, 11am-7pm. 304 S. Third St, San Jose, 408.995.0677.

Cupertino Senior Day Services *Reflections of Her.* A traveling exhibit documenting the life histories of local senior women. Ends May 25. 20920 McClellan Rd, Cupertino.

d.p. Fong Galleries Recent Paintings by Wayne Jiang. Also: *Contemporary Scrolls*, a group exhibition. Ends Mar 31. Tue-Sat, 1-6pm. 383 S. First St, San Jose, 408.298.6877.

Frederick Spratt Gallery *Paddy Moran: A Ten-Year Painting Survey.* Ends Mar 17. Wed-Sat, noon-6pm. 920 S. First St, San Jose, 408.294.1135.

Gallery House *New Work.* Mixed-media, monotypes and assemblages by Dianne Erickson. Ends Mar 24. 320 California Ave, Palo Alto, 650.326.1666.

Gavilan College *Artists Emerging.* An exhibit of more than 250 works of art by local high school students. Ends Mar 9. 5055 Santa Teresa Blvd, Gilroy, 408.848.4771.

La Galeria *Tengo Casi 500 Anos: Africa's Legacy in Mexico.* Photographs by Tony Gleaton. Ends Mar 16. *Dare to Dream: The Life and Work of Cesar Chavez.* Ends Mar 31. Mexican Heritage Plaza, Alum Rock and King roads, San Jose, 800.MHC.VIVA.

La Galerie Internationale Works by Renot. Ends Mar 8. Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm. 370 California Ave, Palo Alto, 650.322.2700.

MACLA *Gender, Genealogy and Counter Memory.* Ends Mar 24. Wed-Sat noon-7pm. 510 S. First St, San Jose, 408.998.2783.

San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art *Eureka, Too! Fellowship Recipients 1999-2001.* Ends Mar 3. Tue-Wed and Fri, 10am-5pm, Thu 10am-8pm, Sat, noon-5pm. 451 S. First St, San Jose, 408.283.8155.

SJSU Galleries *Spin* and *Crib.* Two sculptural installations by Susan Shantz. Ends Mar 2. SJSU Art Building, Ninth and San Carlos streets, San Jose, 408.924.4327.

Studio Forty-Two Gallery Acrylic Abstract and Landscape. Paintings by Francine Markoe. Ongoing. Mon-Sun, 10am-9pm. 23 N. Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, 408.395.3191.

Tercera Gallery Palo Alto Foot Stool Show. Works by many studio furniture artists. Ends Mar 10. 534 Ramona St, Palo Alto, 650.322.5324.

The Tied House San Jose Works by Margaret McNall Whitehorn. Also: Monotypes by Chine Colle. Ends Apr 28. Daily, 11:30am-11:30pm. 65 N. San Pedro St, San Jose.

ART EVENTS

Cuentos y Cantos Premiere staged reading of *Mujeres Encajadas* by Julia Gonzalez Luna and spoken word by CALIFAZ. Sat, 8:30pm (open-mic begins at 7pm). Free admission before 8pm/$5 after 8pm. MACLA, 510. S. First St, San Jose 408.998.ARTE.

Family Day Hands-on art activities, a barbecue and a special reception for the student artists who contributed to this year's *Santa Clara Unified School District Student Art Exhibit.* Sat, 10am-2pm. Free. Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara, 408.247.3754.

Free Admission Sunday To celebrate the openings of two new exhibits, the San Jose Museum of Art offers free admission on Sunday, March 4. The event also offers free performances by local dance and music groups, hands-on children's art activities and informal artists' talks. Sun, 10am-5pm. San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St, San Jose, 408.294.2787.

Literary Panel Discussion A panel discussion on Latin American literary theater works, highlighting Manuel Puig's *The Kiss of the Spider Woman*, to be staged later this month by Teatro Visión. Wed, 7pm. Free. MACLA, 510. S. First St, San Jose 408.998.ARTE.

Reception A reception for sculptor Mahoko Dahte. Sat, 4-7pm. Aegis Gallery, 14531 Big Basin Way #2, Saratoga, 408.867.0171.

Reception A reception for artist Dianne Erickson on Mar 2. Also, meet the artist on Mar 3. Fri, 6-9pm, Sat, 11am-5pm. Gallery House, 320 California Ave, Palo Alto, 650.326.1668.

Reception A reception for the *Sixth Annual Los Gatos Kids' Art Event* exhibit. Sun, 1-4pm. Los Gatos Museum of Fine Art and Natural History, W. Main Street and Tait Avenue, Los Gatos, 408.354.2646.

Reception A reception for installation artist Lisa Dale Miller. Tue, 6-8pm. Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara, 408.247.3754.

Reception A reception for *An Etching Show, Old Masters and New.* Featuring classical music by Daniel Roest. Thu, 6-9pm. ZYT Galerie, 923 N. San Antonio Rd, Los Altos, 650.948.6770.

Reception and Artist Talk Artist Leroy Parker discusses his works. A reception for his current exhibit is also part of the event. Tue, 6-8pm. Triton Museum of Art, 1505 Warburton Ave, Santa Clara, 408.247.3754.

Special Events

The deadline for event listings is **nine days prior** to Thursday's publication. Send information to Music Listings, Metro, 550 S. First St., San Jose, 95113 or calendar@metronews.com. For complete listings, visit Metro's website at http://calendar.metroactive.com.

LECTURES/READING

Peninsula Volunteers Authors Salon This year's guest authors are Aimee Bender (*An Invisible Sign of My Own*), John Billheimer (*Highway Robbery*), Adeline Yen Mah (*Watching the Tree*) and Jonathan Hull (*Losing Julia*). Gail Tsukiyama (*The Language of Threads*) will serve as moderator. Sun, 11:30am. $60. Palo Alto Hills Golf and Country Club, Palo Alto, 650.326.0665.

Diversity Youth Forum One hundred students from more than a dozen local schools will discuss issues of race, gender and class. Presented by the Oriki Theater and the Chamber of Commerce Mountain View. Fri, 9am-2pm. ALZA Corporation, 1900 Charleston Rd, Mountain View, 650.968.8378.

The Art of Flirting Jim Spillane, the author of *The Relationships Tapes*, will reveal how and where to comfortably meet people, how to make a good first impression and how to get them to fall madly in love with you. Fri, 7:30-10pm. $20. Mission College, 3000 Mission College Blvd, Santa Clara, 408.855.5105.

Birge Clark's Buildings Dean and Malcolm Clark and Gail Woolley will give personal recollections of the architect and present slides of his local buildings. Sun, 3pm. free. Lucie Stern Community Center, 1305 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto.

Calpine's Metcalf Energy Center The proposal for Calpine's Metcalf Energy Center (MEC) project will be discussed. Part of the Technology and Society Committee's Luncheon Speaker Series. Tue, 11:45am. $7 TASC members/$8 nonmembers. Golden Wok Restaurant, 895 Villa St, Mountain View.

Climbing Mt. Shasta Dan Towner, a climbing ranger with the U.S. Forest Service, Mt. Shasta Ranger District, will review the basics of climbing Mt. Shasta. Wed, 7pm. free. REI Fremont, 43962 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, 510.651.0305.

Dorothy Fadiman Oscar-nominated filmmaker Dorothy Fadiman discusses "The Making of Woman by Woman: New Hope for Rural Women in India." Visit http://www.stanford.edu/group/womenscntr/ Fri, 4:15-6pm. Free. Stanford History Building 205, Palo Alto, 650.723.1709.

Easy Edible Gardens Wendy Krupnick will teach garden design, layouts and soil fertility. Sat, 10:30am-noon. $15. Common Ground/Ecology Action, 2225 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, 650.328.6752.

The Human Genome Project This lecture explores the latest technologies that Bay Area companies are using to develop new and better drugs and alternative treatments for diseases as a result of information provided by the human genome sequence. Mon, 7-9:30pm. UCSC Extension Santa Clara, 3120 De la Cruz Blvd, Santa Clara, 408.566.4550.

Jerusalem in the Ancient World Speaker: Dr. Jehon Grist, executive director of Lehrhaus Judaica. Tue, 7:30pm. Temple Emanu-El San Jose, 1010 University Ave, San Jose, 408.292.0939.

Know Zone Lecture Series Speaker: mountaineer Conrad Anker, who retraced Shackleton's Antarctic Journey. Wed. $9 members/$10 nonmembers. The Tech Museum of Innovation, 201 S. Market St, San Jose, 408.795.6105.

Polar Research and the Exploration of Mars Speaker: Dr. Pascal Lee. Wed, 7pm. free. Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Rd, Los Altos Hills, 650.949.7888.

First-Person Accounts of WWII The JCC's Adult Department will present a program in which WWII veterans will share their war experiences. Sun, 2pm. free. Albert L. Schultz Jewish Community Center, 655 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto, 650.363.1676.

Stories of Chinese Immigration Artist and activist Flo Oy Wong will lead a symposium on the history of Chinese immigration to the United States. Panelists will include Cupertino City Council member Michael Chang, Felicia Lowe, president of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, and writer and journalist William Wong. Thu, 1:30-3:30pm. Hinson Campus Center, De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, 408.864.8836.

Vegetarian Cooking and Discovery Class This class will include cooking demonstrations and tips, food tastings, recipes to take home and basic vegetarian nutrition. Students should eat a light meal before class. Thu, 6-9:30pm. $25. Cupertino High School, 10100 Finch Ave, Cupertino, 408.522.2700.

Music Listings

The deadline for music listings is nine days prior to Thursday's publication. Send information to Music Listings, Metro, 550 S. First St., San Jose, 95113 or to calendar@metronews.com. Please do not send email attachments. For complete listings, visit Metro's website at http://calendar.metroactive.com.

ROCK/POP/TOP 40

#1 Broadway Thu: Politzer's Allstars. Fri: Stanley and Hames. Sat: Pacific Standard Time. Sun: A Few Good Men. 102 S. Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, 408.354.4303.

Almaden Roasting Co. Fri, 7:30-9pm: Lani Marie. Pop and light jazz. 6055 Meridian.

The Aptos Club Sat: Battle of the Bands. Presented by *Vamp* magazine and KMBY. With Ribsey's Nickel, Lipstick and Chaos Lounge. 7941 Soquel Dr, Aptos, 831.688.9888.

Bean Scene Fri, 7:30-10:30pm: Carpet Room. All ages, no cover. 186 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.738.4523.

Bourbon One Sat, 9pm: Live bands. No cover. 927 E. Duane Ave, Sunnyvale.

Britannia Arms Almaden Thu: Roshambo. Fri: Under Dog. Sat: Martini. 5027 Almaden Expwy, San Jose, 408.266.0550.

Britannia Arms Cupertino Thu: Sweet Talk. Fri: Warsaw. Sat, 9:30pm-1:30am: Carpet Room. 21+, no cover. 1087 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd, Cupertino, 408.252.7262.

Brookdale Lodge Tue: Dam Daves Oddass Instrument Jam. 11570 Hwy 9, Brookdale, 831.338.7633.

Cactus Club Thu: 2Loud2 Lounge. Bands give unplugged performances. Thu: NMSO4. With Prop 808, the Stoned Messiahs and Fleshole. Fri: Down2None. With Setacide, Shortie and Caiba. Sat: Willie's Conception. With Monkey, Floppy Rods and Funkranomicon. Sat: Monkey. With Floppy Rods, Funkranomicon and Willie's Conception. Sun: doors 5pm: Sloe. With Ellis, Olympic Year and Fighting Jacks. Early show. All ages. Sun, doors 9pm: Kidd X. With Sd3, Triplex and other. This show follows the early punk and rock show. 16+. Mon, doors 5pm: Dr. Madd Vibe. Fishbone frontman Angelo Moore's spoken word and music side project. With avant-garde musician and poet Richard Ray. Early show. All ages. $7. 417 S. First St, San Jose, 408.491.9300.

Caravan Thu: Live Local Bands. Call for info. 98 Almaden Ave, San Jose, 408.995.6220.

The Catalyst Thu, doors 7pm; show 8pm: NOFX. Fri: With Mad Caddies and Down in Flames; Sat with the Ataris and Lars Frederiksen and the Bastards. 16+. $12. Fri, doors 8:30pm; show 9:30pm: Slow Gherkin. With O.P.M. and the Plus-Ones. 16+. $6. 1011 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, 831.423.1336.

The Coffee Factory Wed, 6pm: Venice Shoreline Chris Murray. With Katie Specs and Avery Burke. Stevens Creek Boulevard and Saratoga Avenue, Santa Clara.

Fibbar Magee's Sunnyvale Fri, 9:30pm: Smurfy Brown. no cover. Sat, 9:30pm: Velvet Jones. no cover. 156 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.749.8373.

Fremont High School Theater Sat, 2pm: Fourth Annual Phatty Patty Festival. A battle of the high school bands with 5606, Ground, Slip to Save You, Olympic Year, Manic Notion and Corrosive Eight. Part of Grand Fanali Presents' 2001: A Rock Odyssey. All ages. $5. 1279 Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd, Sunnyvale.

Fuel Sun, show 8pm: Alien Crime Syndicate. With Chris Landon Band. Tue, doors 8:30pm: Lon Lopez. The former Statueman singer performs with his new band the Booty Call. DAve Ray opens. $5. Tue, doors 8:30pm; show 9pm: Lon Lopez. The former singer for Statueman performs with his new band the Booty Call which features members of Statueman, Jalopy Taco Stand and Audio Fungus. With Dave Ray. $5. 44 S. Almaden Ave, San Jose, 408.295.7374.

Gaslighter Theater Thu, Sun-Wed: Rock, alternative, ska, house, hip-hop and country. Live music and DJs. All ages. 400 E. Campbell Ave, Campbell, 408.866.1408.

King's Head Pub Thu: Dangling Mangoes. Fri: Banned Together. 201 Orchard City Dr, Campbell, 408.871.2499.

Continued on page 56

DÍA EN COMUNIDAD EN EL MUSEO DE ARTE DE SAN JOSE
SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART COMMUNITY DAY

THE SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART AND AT&T INVITE YOU TO

COMMUNITY DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 10AM – 5PM

FREE ADMISSION TO THE MUSEUM ALL DAY

110 SOUTH MARKET STREET AT THE CORNER OF SAN FERNANDO

Please join us on Sunday, March 4,
for a community celebration of the exhibitions
El Favor de los Santos: The Retablo Collection of New Mexico State University,
Contemporary Devotion and *Carmen Lomas Garza: A Retrospective*.
Admission is free all day, so bring your family, friends and neighbors!
Come and have some fun!

Throughout the day enjoy live music by strolling guitarists, dance performances by the Washington Community Baile Folklorico (1pm) and Tezkatlipoka-Aztec Dancers (2:30pm), authentic Mexican cuisine, and children's hands-on art activities. Artists included in the exhibition *Contemporary Devotion* will give informal afternoon gallery talks (12pm–4pm). The Mexican Heritage Plaza, MACLA, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Silicon Valley, the Washington United Youth Center, Siren, muybueno.net, and Sacred Heart Community Center will be here to share information on their community services. There will be a raffle for a fabulous prize from The Museum Store and KBRG 100.3 Radio Romantica will broadcast live (1pm–3pm) from the Museum! **Back by popular demand! — Carmen Lomas Garza will be at the Museum at 2pm to meet fans and sign her books!**

SJMA Community Day is generously sponsored by AT&T

KBRG 100.3 Radio Romantica and *Nuevo Mundo* are media sponsors.

WELLS FARGO is a major sponsor of the San Jose presentation of *El Favor de los Santos: The Retablo Collection of New Mexico State University* and *Contemporary Devotion*.

Carmen Lomas Garza: A Retrospective is organized by SJMA and supported by AT&T

Complimentary refreshments provided by Parsley Sage Rosemary & Thyme

CALL (408) 271-6840 FOR INFORMATION OR VISIT SJMUSART.ORG

(left) Carmen Lomas Garza, "Tamale Treatment (Tratamiento)," 1989. (detail) Hearthon Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution Museum Purchase, 1995. (center) "Our Lady of Refuge (Nuestra Señora del Refugio or Refugio de Pecadores)," (detail) Anonymous Mexico, 19th century. (right) Manuel Ocampo, "Heridas de la Lengua," 1993. Collection of Kent Barbour. ©1999 Photo © Bob Phillips

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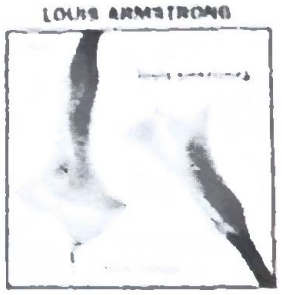
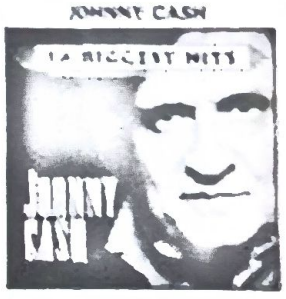
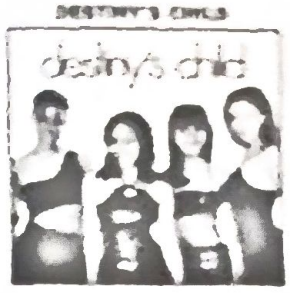

JEFF BUCKLEY
THE CLASH
JOHNNY CASH


HARRY CONNICK JR.
CYPRESS HILL
DESTINY'S CHILD


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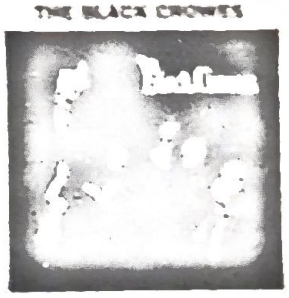
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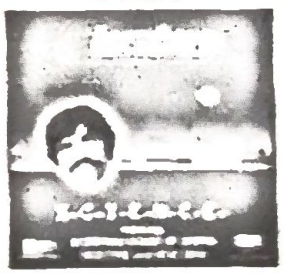

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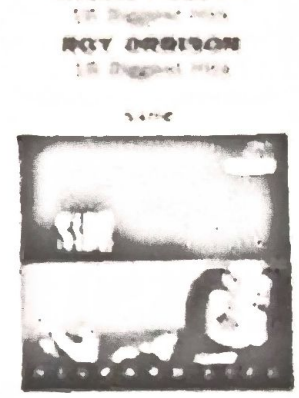
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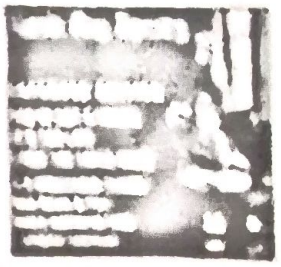
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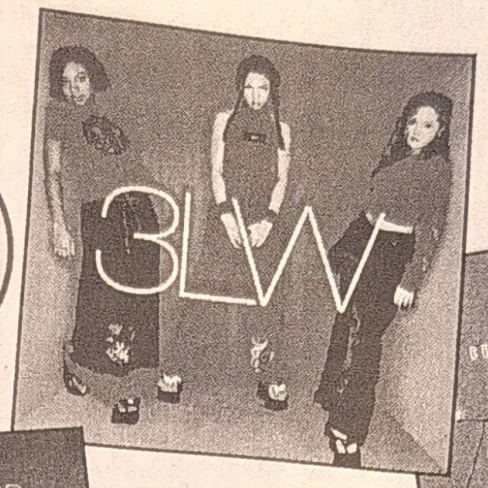

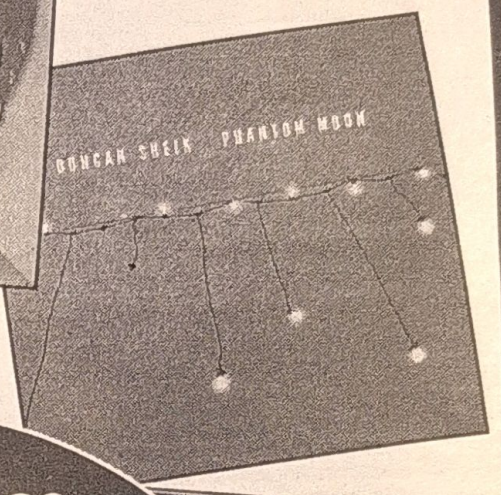

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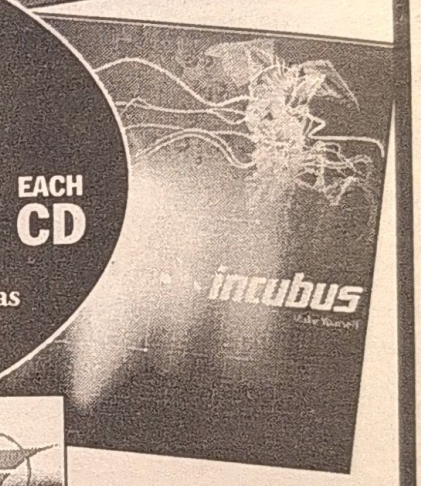

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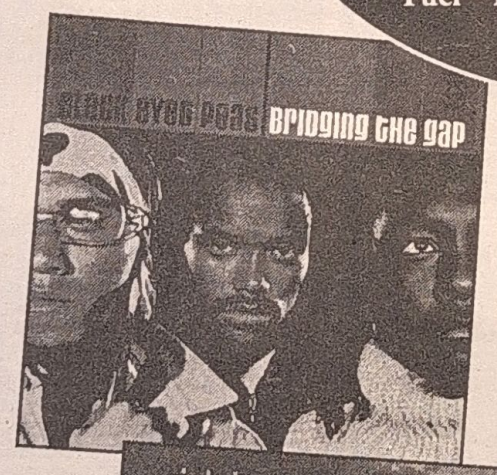

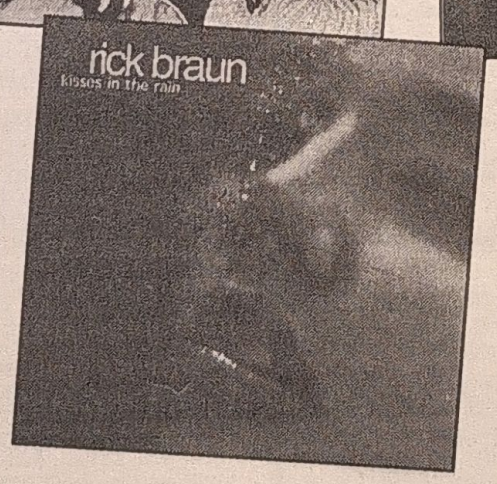

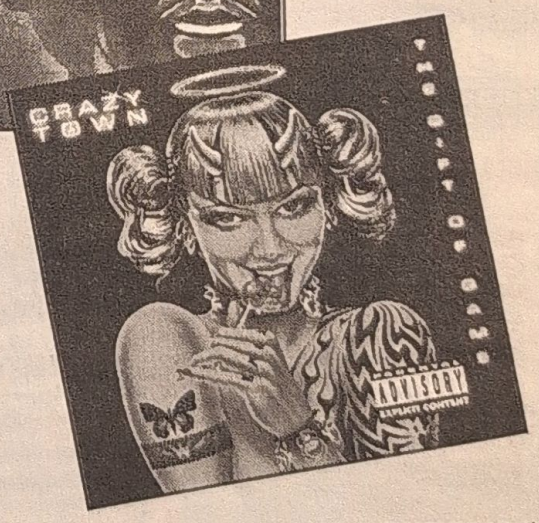

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Continued from page 53

Los Altos Bar and Grill Thu, 9pm-midnight: Blue House. 169 Main St, Los Altos, 650.948.4332.

Marina Seafood Grotto Fri, 9pm-1am: Pazazz. 995 Elizabeth St, Alviso, 408.262.2563.

Palookaville Sat: Ledisi. $10/$12. Sun: Houseman. 1133 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, 831.454.0600.

Quarter Note Sun: Jam Session. With Little Max and Dave Price. 21+. Mon: Jam sessions with John. 1214 Apollo Way, Sunnyvale, 408.732.2110.

Scruffy Murphy's Thu: Scott Williams. Fri: Velvet Jones. Sat: Joy Ride. Wed: Caliban. 187 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.735.7394.

Stoddard's Brewhouse & Eatery Fri-Sun: Live Music. 111 S. Murphy Ave., Sunnyvale, 408.733.7824.

Toon's Fri, 9:30pm: The Switch. 21+. Sat, 9:30pm: Uncle Melvin. 21+. no cover. Sun, 9:30pm: Caddy Wompas?. 21+. no cover. Tue: Supertime. 21+. no cover. Wed, 9:30pm: Uncle Melvin. 21+. no cover. 52 E. Santa Clara St, San Jose, 408.292.7464.

The Usual Thu, 8pm (doors): Dread Zeppelin. With Triplex. 21+. $10 cover. 400 S. First St, San Jose, 408.535.0330.

WORLD/REGGAE

Cafe La Dolce Vita Sat, 7:30pm: Mira. 229 California Ave, Palo Alto, 650.323.0478.

Crow's Nest Thu, 8:30pm: Tropical Dance Night. With Pankind. $4. Sat, 9:30pm: Yardies. $5. 2218 East Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz, 831.476.4560.

Fuel Sat, doors 8pm; show 9:30pm: Dr. Loco. $10. Sun, doors 4pm; show 4:30pm: Sierra Maestra. $15/$18. 44 S. Almaden Ave, San Jose, 408.295.7374.

King's Head Pub Wed, 8pm: Paddy Keenan and Junji Sarota. Presented in part by the Celtic Society. $13. 201 Orchard City Dr, Campbell, 408.871.2499.

Loading Zone Wed, 9pm-1am: Caesar Myles and the Dreaded Truth. 2048 Broadway, Redwood City, 650.299.9117.

Nevsky's Fri-Sat, 7pm-midnight: Live Contemporary Russian Music. Enjoy dinner and dancing. 1740 S. Winchester Blvd, Campbell, 408.379.1126.

Neza Bar & Grill Fri: Live Music. Fri, 9:45pm: Grupo Conflicto. 21+. 1505 S. Winchester Blvd, San Jose, 408.866.0511.

Palookaville Fri: Lost at Last. The Free Radicals. $15/$17. 1133 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, 831.454.0600.

JAZZ/BLUES

A.P. Stump's Thu: Smith Dobson Trio. Fri: Strings Attached. Sat: Little Muddy. Tue: Aaron Robinson Duo. Wed: Jennifer Lee Duo. 163 W. Santa Clara St, San Jose, 408.292.9928.

Bathtub Gin and Blues Thu: Maxx Cabello. Fri: Mark Hummel. Sat: Joe Rose and the Dynaflows. Sun: Jam with the Brian Vanns Red Hot Band. 1131 Lawrence Expwy, Sunnyvale, 408.734.2500.

Cafe Borrone Fri, 8-11pm: Clint Baker's Dixieland Jazz. No cover. 1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park, 650.327.0830.

Cafe Fino Thu-Sat: Nancy Gilliland. 544 Emerson St, Palo Alto, 650.326.6082.

The Catalyst Sat, 9:30pm: Will Bernard & Motherbug. In the atrium. 21+. no cover. 1011 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, 831.423.1336.

The Cats Thu, 7pm: Swing Ambassadors. Tue: John Davis & the Sliders. 17533 Santa Cruz Hwy (Hwy 17), Los Gatos, 408.354.4020.

The Cellar/Agenda Lounge Thu, 8pm (doors), 8:30pm (show): Locals Only. Featuring Say What?! free. Fri: Anton Schwartz Quartet. free. Sat: Modesto Briseno Quartet. free. 399 S. First St, San Jose, 408.287.4087.

Fairmont Hotel Thu, 5-11pm, Fri-Sun, 3:30-8pm, Mon-Wed, 5-11pm: Piano music. Fri-Sat, 8:30pm-12:30am: Live band. 170 S. Market St, San Jose, 408.998.3960.

Fanny & Alexander Thu, free before 11pm: R&B, Funk and Contemporary Soul. Sat: R&B, Funk and Contemporary Soul. free before 11pm. 72 N. Almaden Ave, San Jose, 408.287.1737.

French Quarter Cabaret Thu, Sat: DJ Ebonite. Fri: DJ Luv. 195 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.773.8700.

Gasthaus Adler Fri, 9pm-closing, Sun, 6-10pm: Live Jazz and Blues. no cover. 1380 S. Main St, Milpitas, 408.946.6141.

Hedley Club Thu: Rick Vandivier. free. Fri, 8:30pm-12:30am: Rob Reardon Quintet. no cover. Wed: Sue Crosman Duo. free. Wed: India with Straight Ahead. Hotel De Anza, 233 W. Santa Clara St, San Jose, 408.286.1000.

Icon Supperclub Thu-Sat, 6-9pm with dinner: Live Jazz. 21+. Thu: Pick Up Sticks. Fri: Kofy Brown. 21+. Fri: Modesto Briseno Quartet featuring Dave Mathews. Fri, 10pm: Kofy Brown. Fri-Sat: DJ Resse. '70s, '80s and '90s. Sat: Allen Bronstein Quartet featuring P.A. Holtz. 260 California Ave, Palo Alto, 650.289.0222.

JJ's Blues Thu: Dr. Tony. 6pm; Mofo Party Band, 9pm. $6. Fri: Ron Hacker & the Hacksaws. Sat: Little Charlie & the Nite Cats. Sun: Oliver Harris and Frank Ramos. 4pm; Jam with Vinnie, 8pm. Mon, 9pm: Jam with Gumbo. Tue: Lara Price. 6pm; Blues Chance, 9pm. Wed, 9pm: One More Mile. Jam with Gypsy Blue, 6pm. 3439 Stevens Creek Blvd, Santa Clara, 408.243.6441.

Kuumbwa Jazz Center Fri: Nuclear Whales Saxophone Orchestra. Mon: Mose Allison Trio. 320-2 Cedar St, Santa Cruz, 831.427.2227.

Loading Zone Sun, 8pm-midnight: Blues Jam Session. Tue, 9pm-1am: Archie Lee Hooker and Shawn Gonzales. 2048 Broadway, Redwood City, 650.299.9117.

Moe's Alley Fri, 9:30pm: Zigaboo Modeliste. $8. Sat, 10pm: Kaye Bohler. 1535 Commercial Way, Santa Cruz, 831.479.1854.

Norma's Living Room Fri-Sat: DJ Don. no cover. 38 N. Main, Milpitas, 408.719.1018.

The Plumed Horse Thu, 7-10pm, Tue-Wed, 7-10pm: Darin Solo. Fri-Sat, 8pm-midnight: Med's Mood Swings. 14555 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, 408.867.4711.

Quarter Note Thu: Scott Louis Band. Wed: Jam Session. With Doc, Big Daddy Blue and Scott. 1214 Apollo Way, Sunnyvale, 408.732.2110.

The Quiet Bar Thu-Sat: Thomas Ryder. Retro easy listening. Doubletree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, 408.453.4000.

Roadhouse Blues & Rock Cafe Thu: Jam With T. and Co.. 1102 W. Evelyn Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.739.7939.

Spiedo Thu-Sat, 7-11pm: Larry Vuckovich Trio. The pianist performs with bassist Nat Johnson and drummer Mark Lee. 151 W. Santa Clara St, San Jose, 408.971.6096.

Tarragon Restaurant Thu, 7:30-11pm: Leon Williams and Dave Prieto Quartet. no cover. Thu, 7:30-11pm: Leon Williams and Dave Prieto Quartet. no cover. Fri, 7:30-11pm: The Swing Ambassadors. no cover. Fri, 7:30-11pm: Ambassadors of Swing. no cover. Sat, 7:30-11pm: Ike Cosse. no cover. Sat, 7:30-11pm: Rob Roman and Friends. no cover. 140 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale.

Tony Roma's Fri-Sat, 9pm-1am: Thunder and Lightning. With Clifford Coulter and Dolly Rappaport. No cover. 4233 Moorpark Ave, San Jose, 408.253.4900.

LOUNGES

Bob's Surf and Turf Thu, 8pm-midnight: Rudy Madrid. Guitar music. 2400 Monterey Rd, San Jose, 408.286.0470.

The Cardinal Coffee Shop Thu-Sun, 9pm-1:30am, Tue, 9pm-1:30am: Live Music. no cover. 3197 Meridian Ave, San Jose.

The Echo Restaurant and Lounge Thu-Fri: Brad Bryant. No cover. 1579 Miramonte Ave, Los Altos, 650.967.0969.

Oakwood Lounge Fri, 9pm: Karaoke w/Jaw Bone Productions. No cover. 7421 Monterey Rd, Gilroy, 408.848.1094.

Three Flames Restaurant Thu, Tue-Wed: Times Two. 1547 Meridian Ave, San Jose, 408.269.3133.

LATIN/SALSA

Alberto's Thu: Salsa. W/Gabriel and Alicia and DJ Tony-O. Fri: Orquesta Avance. Sat: Rock N Spanish. W/Ruido Azul. Sun: DJ Ricardo T. Tue: Salsa. W/Jake and Techi and DJ Tony-O. 736 W. Dana St, Mountain View, 650.968.3007.

Club Caribe Thu, 7-9pm: Salsa Music. Free salsa lessons. 1001 S. First St., San Jose, 408.297.7272.

Club Rio Fri: Rock en Espanol. 610 Coleman Ave, San Jose, 408.298.9283.

Hard Work Cafe Sat, 9:30pm: Latin Groove. 1620 Almaden Rd, San Jose, 408.289.9675.

King of Clubs Fri-Sat, 9pm-1:30am: Live Latin music. 893 Leong Drive, Mountain View, 650.968.6366.

La Copa Inn Fri-Sat, 9pm-1am: Fiero. $5. 2444-B Alvin Ave, San Jose, 408.274.3700.

La Paloma Thu, 6-9pm: Francisco Ramierez. 2280 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 408.247.0990.

COUNTRY/WESTERN

Club Savoy Tue: Women's Nightclub. Country. 3540 Flora Vista, Santa Clara, 408.244.6909.

Mac's American Grill Wed: Line dancing. 325 Main St, Los Altos, 650.941.0234.

Continued on page 58

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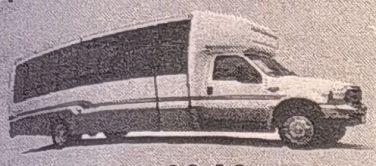

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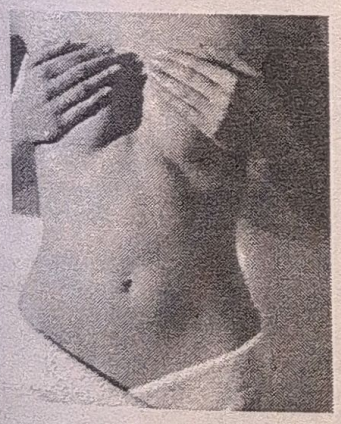

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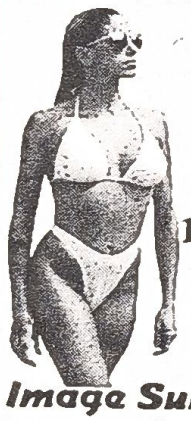
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Continued from page 56

FOLK

Barnes & Noble Pruneyard Sat, 8pm: Steve Kritzer. 1875 S. Bascom Ave, Campbell, 408.559.8101.

Borders Books Palo Alto Fri, 7:30-10pm: Four Shillings Short. Historic Varsity Theater, 456 University Ave, Palo Alto, 650.326.3670.

Carry Nation's Thu, 5pm: Chuck McCabe, no cover. Fri, 5pm: Debra and Mark Harville, no cover. 8 N. Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, 408.354.1771.

The Coffee Factory Wed, (every second and fourth): Acoustic Cafe Nights, no cover. Stevens Creek Boulevard and Saratoga Avenue, Santa Clara.

Espresso Garden and Cafe Thu, noon-1:30pm: Jeremy Saxon. Fri, noon: Daphna Rahmil. Fri, 8pm: Peter Mulvey. With Jennifer Kimball. $8. Sat, 8pm: Cindy Mangsen and STeve Gillette. A Fiddling Cricket concert. Tue, 7:30pm: Robin and Linda Williams. $15/$17. Wed, lunchtime concert: Daphna Rahmill. Wed, 7:30pm: Greg and Bev. 814 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose, 408.292.7940.

King's Head Pub Thu: Celtic Music Jam Session. With John Taylor, Dave McCumisky, Richard Katz, Larry Drummond, Pete Howarth and more. 201 Orchard City Dr, Campbell, 408.871.2499.

Kuumbwa Jazz Center Sat, 7:30pm with The Burns Sisters and Karen Savoca: Snazzy Productions Presents. most tickets $16.80. 320-2 Cedar St, Santa Cruz, 831.427.2227.

Rainbow's End Espresso Sun, 6-9pm: Showcase. Bands from the Bay Area. 13266 Hwy 9, Boulder Creek, 831.338.1899.

Scruffy Murphy's Wed, 9pm: Caliban. 187 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.735.7394.

OPEN MIC/POETRY

Austin's Texas Barbecue and Steakhouse Fri-Sat, 7-9pm: Tableside Campfire Poetry. W/Western cowboy Jim Bone. Call for reservations. 1616 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, 650.969.9191.

Brookdale Lodge Wed, 8pm: Lip Service, free. 11570 Hwy 9, Brookdale, 831.338.7633.

The Coffee Factory Sat, 7-10pm: Acoustic Music Open Mic. All acoustic styles welcome, no cover. Stevens Creek Boulevard and Saratoga Avenue, Santa Clara.

Coffee Society Tue, 8pm, sign-ups at 7:30pm (every third Tue): Poets Society. Hosted by Ed Burke. Oaks Shopping Center, Cupertino, 408.725.8091.

Community Museum Tue, (every second and fourth Tue of the month): Community Museum Open Mic. Members of the community who would like to share their musical or poetic talents are invited to participate in an open mic night. Tue, 8-10pm (every second and fourth): Community Open Mic. 559 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, 408.942.1776.

Espresso Garden and Cafe Thu, sign up 6:45pm: South Bay Folks Acoustic Open Mic. Sat, 3-5pm (every second of the month): Fierce Words Tender. A women's open mic. 814 S. Bascom Ave, San Jose, 408.292.7940.

Faultline Coffee Roasting and Bagel Co. Wed, 7pm: Open Mic Poetry, Spoken Word and Music. Any style welcome, free. 730 San Benito St, Hollister.

Printers Inc Thu, 7-9pm: Open Poetry Reading. 310 California Ave, Palo Alto, 650.327.6500.

Red Rock Coffee Co. Mon, 7:30pm: Open Mic Night. No cover. 201 Castro St, Mountain View, 650.967.4473.

Willow Glen Books Mon, 7:30pm (every third Mon): Open Mic Night. Featured reader and open mic readings. No cover. 1330 Lincoln Ave, San Jose, 408.298.8141.

KARAOKE

Alex's 49er Inn Sat, 9pm-1am: Be a Star Karaoke. 2214 Business Circle, San Jose, 408.279.9737.

Almaden Feed and Fuel Thu: Karaoke With Tony and Carmen. 18950 Almaden Rd, San Jose, 408.268.6950.

Almaden Lounge Thu, 9pm-1:30am: Karaoke With Jesse. Seven nights a week. No cover. 1160 Blossom Hill Rd, San Jose, 408.269.4200.

Blinky's Sports Bar Fri, 9pm-1am: Karaoke. 3145 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 408.241.3933.

Blue Max Wed, 9pm-1:30am: Karaoke. 820 W. El Camino Real, Sunnyvale, 408.746.9500.

Bourbon One Thu, 8:30pm-1:30am: Karaoke w/John Avent's Empty Band. No cover. 927 E. Duane Ave, Sunnyvale.

Britannia Arms Almaden Sun, Wed: Karaoke. With Crazy 2 Sing. 5027 Almaden Expwy, San Jose, 408.266.0550.

The Cardinal Coffee Shop Mon, 9pm-1:30am, Wed, 9pm-1:30am: T&B Karaoke. 3197 Meridian Ave, San Jose.

Cielito Lindo Thu, 6pm: Karaoke. In English and Spanish. 195 E. Taylor St, San Jose, 408.995.3447.

The Claran Lounge Thu, 9pm-midnight: T&B Karaoke. 1251 Franklin Mall, Santa Clara, 408.296.9558.

Club Max Wed: Paradise Karaoke. Doubletree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose, 408.437.2167.

Club Savoy Wed, 8:30pm-12:30am: Karaoke. Women's club, no cover. Wed: Women's Night-club. Karaoke. 3546 Flora Vista, Santa Clara, 408.241.6909.

Coyote Inn Thu, 8-11pm, Sun, 8-11pm, Tue, 8-11pm: Karaoke. 102 Monterey Rd, Coyote, 408.463.0970.

Creekside Inn Thu, 9-11:30pm, Fri-Sat, 9:30pm-1am: Larri's Karaoke. 544 W. Alma St, San Jose, 408.289.9781.

Daybreak Thu, 8pm, Sun, 9pm: Karaoke. 1711 W. El Camino Real, Mountain View, 650.940.9778.

The Echo Restaurant and Lounge Sun, 7-11:30pm: Karaoke w/ Pauline of John Avent's Empty Band, no cover. 1579 Miramonte Ave, Los Altos, 650.967.0969.

Effie's Restaurant and Lounge Thu, 8:30-11:30pm: Sundance Productions Karaoke. With Erica. Tue, 8:30-11:30pm: T & B Karaoke. 331 Hacienda Ave, Campbell, 408.374.3400.

El Torito Fremont Thu, 7-11pm: Be a Star Karaoke. 39550 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, 510.794.7863.

Flames Coffee Shop Sat, 8:30pm-12:30am: T&B Karaoke. 1812 Hillsdale Ave, San Jose, 408.723.8393.

Flamingo Lounge Thu-Sat, 9pm-1:30am: Karaoke. 2103 Scott Blvd, Santa Clara, 408.241.0687.

Foxes Sun, 9pm: Karaoke With Cheryl Ann, no cover. 171 W. Tennyson Rd, Hayward, 510.887.5866.

Front Row Bar & Grill Fri, 9pm-midnight (DJ dance party), Sat, 9pm-midnight (karaoke), Tue, 9pm-midnight (karaoke): Be a Star. 5035 Mowry Ave at Blacow, Fremont, 510.791.0545.

Giuseppe of Willow Glen Thu, 9pm-midnight, Fri-Sat, 9:30pm-12:30am: Karaoke w/Kimiki & Co. 1072 Lincoln Ave, San Jose, 408.292.4866.

The Goosetown Lounge Fri-Sat, 9pm-1am: Wild Side Karaoke. 1072 Lincoln Ave, Willow Glen, 408.292.4866.

Guido's Pizza Wed, 8pm-midnight: Karaoke w/Karaoke Kids Laser Toons. 39681 Mission Blvd, Fremont, 510.661.9090.

J&B Peacock Lounge Thu, 8pm-1:30am: Karaoke With Ruby. 1275 Sierra Rd in the Piedmont Shopping Center, San Jose, 408.258.2345.

Jimmy's Tue: Karaoke. 5995 Mowry Ave, Newark, 510.744.6945.

King Arthur's Cafe (a.k.a. Magic Wok) Thu, 9pm-2am with Ida, Fri, 9pm-2am with Elena, Sat, 9pm-2am with Ida, Sun, family friendly karaoke, 8pm-1am, Tue, 9pm-2am with Dave, Wed, 9pm-2am with Elena: Karaoke. Thu-Sat, 9pm-2am, Sun, 8pm-1am, Tue-Wed, 9pm-2am: Karaoke. 500-C Lawrence Expwy, Sunnyvale, 408.739.6422.

King's Head Pub Mon: Karaoke. 201 Orchard City Dr, Campbell, 408.871.2499.

King's Inn Lounge Fri-Sat, 9:30pm-closing: Karaoke With Hidden Talent, no cover. 41023 Trimboli Ave, Fremont, 510.657.2324.

Kirby's ShoeString Thu, 9pm: Karaoke. With Classact Entertainment. No cover. 42312 Fremont Blvd, Fremont, 510.657.9060.

Los Altos Bar and Grill Tue, 8-11pm: Karaoke With Davey K. 169 Main St, Los Altos, 650.948.4332.

McNeil's Bar & Grill Wed, 9pm: Kamikaze Karaoke. No cover. 800 Kiely and Homestead roads, Santa Clara, 408.244.4038.

Mountain Charley's Wed: Karaoke, no cover. 15 N. Santa Cruz Ave, Los Gatos, 408.395.8880.

Neza Bar & Grill Thu: Karaoke. Sing your worst songs with Spencer 4 Hire. 1505 S. Winchester Blvd, San Jose, 408.866.0511.

Patty's Inn Fri, 9pm-midnight: T&B Karaoke. 102 S. Montgomery St, San Jose.

Pine Street Wed, 9pm-1am: Karaoke Night. Singing w/Lila and the Karaoke Zone. 875 Rincon Ave, Livermore, 925.606.8266.

Q's Place Fri-Sat, 9pm-1:30am: Q's Place Karaoke. 6075 Cahalan Ave at Santa Teresa Road, San Jose, 408.224.9816.

Quarter Note Tue: Karaoke with Lerae. 1214

Continued on page 60

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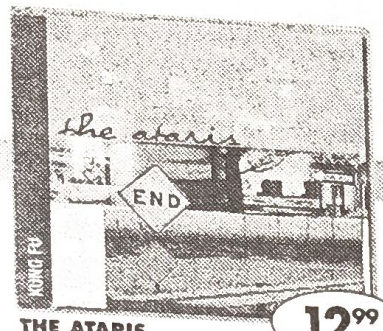

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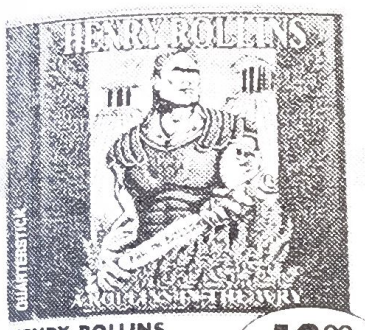

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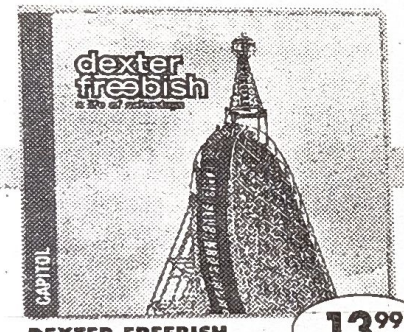

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Continued from page 58

Apollo Way, Sunnyvale, 408.732.2110.

Roadhouse Blues & Rock Cafe Sun, 9pm-1am, Tue, 9pm-1am: Karaoke. 1102 W. Evelyn Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.739.7939.

Shooters Redwood City Thu, 9pm-1:30am: Karaoke W/ Paulines of John Avent's Empty Band. No cover. 2411 Broadway, Redwood City.

Shooters Sunnyvale Sat, 9pm-1:30am: Karaoke With John and Barb of Avents Empty Band. no cover. Wed, 9pm-1:30am: Karaoke With John of Avents Empty Band. no cover. 969 N. Mathilda, Sunnyvale, 408.738.2787.

South 40 Club Wed, 7:30pm: Karaoke w/Class Act Entertainment. Wed, 7:30pm: Karaoke. 46850 Warm Springs Rd, Fremont, 510.657.8935.

South Seas Hide-A-Way Fri, 9pm-1:30am: Karaoke With John of Avents Empty Band. no cover. 10031 Judy Ave, Cupertino, 408.252.0684.

South Side Cafe Thu, Tue: Karaoke w/Buck. 7028 Santa Teresa Blvd, San Jose, 408.226.5424.

Sports Page Fri: 5-Speed. Sat, Tue, 8:30pm: Karaoke Night. 1431 Plymouth Ave, Mountain View, 650.961.1992.

Three Flames Restaurant Sun, 7:30-11:30pm: T&B Karaoke. 1547 Meridian Ave, San Jose, 408.269.3133.

Villa Roma Thu-Sat, 9pm, Wed, 9pm: Starchart Entertainment with DJ Bobby C. no cover. Thu-Sat, 9pm: Karaoke. Star-Chart Entertainment with DJ Bobby C. no cover. 593 Woodside Rd (on the corner of Woodside and Central), Redwood City, 650.365.5060.

COMEDY

Big Lil's Cabaret Thu, 8pm doors, 8:30pm show: Howard Gurne. Thu, 8pm (doors), 8:30pm (show): Becky Pedigo & Ngaio. With musical guest Kevin Worley. 157 W. San Fernando St, San Jose, 408.295.7469.

ComedySportz Thu, 7:30pm, Fri, 9pm, Sat, 7:30 and 9:30pm: ComedySportz. $7-$9. Rancho Shopping Center, 3428 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 408.985.5233.

Community Museum Thu, 7-8pm: Comedy IPO Rehearsals. Comedy IPO, led by writer and dramatist John McDonough, practices on Thu evenings. Improvisational comedy techniques are taught and practiced. Free for Friends of the Museum. Sign up takes place at the Museum. Free. 559 E. Calaveras Blvd, Milpitas, 408.942.1776.

De Anza College Wed, 12:30pm: Actors' Ensemble Presentation. Stand-up comedy. free. 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, 408.864.8371.

Riff's Lounge Night Club Sat: Laff at Riff's. $10. 1811 Barber Lane, Milpitas.

DANCE CLUBS

Agenda Lounge Thu: Sessions. With DJ Special K and guests. 21+. Fri: DJ Rated R. Sat: Guest DJs, House music. Sun: Planet Reggae. With DJ Napy and DJ Bro's Dub. 21+. Tue: Level. With DJs Matt Mau and Mike Slim. 21+. Wed: Best of Salsa. With DJ Roberto. 399 S. First St, San Jose, 408.287.4087.

Alberto's Wed: Swing Dance Party. With Michael and Persephone. Lindy Hop and East Coast swing classes are followed by DJ dancing and occasional live bands. 736 W. Dana St, Mountain View, 650.968.3007.

Backbeat Nightclub Thu, complimentary dinner buffet, 6-9pm; music, 9pm-2am: Remix. With rotating residents Mustafa, Rick Gascon, Keepbo, Steve Husted and Armann. $7-$10. Thu, doors 9pm: Doc Martin. Special 4-hour South Bay exclusive. No dress code. 21+. $10 before 10pm. Fri: Superstar Fridays. Top 40, dance and house. Sat: Dance Party. With Woody or Mark Christopher. Also DJ Rick Gascon. $10. Sun: Swank Swing Sundays. Live bands and dance lessons. Wed: DJ Rick the Rock. 777 Lawrence Expwy, San Jose, 408.241.0777.

Blinky's Sports Bar Sat, 9pm: DJ Dancing. 3145 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, 408.241.3933.

The Body Shop Fri, doors 9pm: DJ Dancing. Dress code enforced. 18+. 47 Notre Dame Ave, San Jose.

Cactus Club Fri: The Venue. Mon: Bad Puppy. House music. 18+. $5/21+ free before 10:30pm. Tue: Flashback. DJ dancing to New Wave music. Wed: Stereophonic. Trance, techno and jungle. 417 S. First St, San Jose, 408.491.9300.

Capitol Dance Studio Sat, Beginning 6pm, Intermediate 7pm, Sun, Beginning 3pm, Intermediate 4pm: Salsa Dancing. 260 Hillsdale, San Jose.

Cielito Lindo Fri, 9pm-midnight: Live DJ. 195 E. Taylor St, San Jose, 408.995.3447.

Club 369 Thu: Club Oz. With WILD 94.9 DJs and more. Club favorites. Fri, Sun: Club Impact. With WILD 94.9 DS. Club favorites. Sat: Transition. 369 S. First St, San Jose, 408.448.2003.

Club Miami Tue: Dtour. 18+. Tue, door9pm: Diva. Superstar DJ lineup plays hip-hop and house hits. Fashionable dress code. 18+. ladies free before 10:30pm with invites. Wed: Happy Hump Day. Semiformal dress code. 177 W. Santa Clara St, San Jose, 408.279.3670.

Club Savoy Thu-Sat, 8:30pm-2am: DJ Dancing. Women's club. no cover. Fri-Sat: Women's Nightclub. House music by the Savoy DJs. 3546 Flora Vista, Santa Clara, 408.244.6909.

Crittenden Middle School Wed, 7:30-10pm: Bows and Beaus Square Dance Club. 1701 Rock Str, Mountain View.

Fanny & Alexander Fri: Ladies Night. Live music. no cover for ladies. 72 N. Almaden Ave, San Jose, 408.287.1737.

First United Methodist Church of Palo Alto Thu, 7:45-11:30pm: Israeli Folk Dancing. $5. 625 Hamilton Ave, Palo Alto, 650.323.6167.

Foresters Hall Thu, 7-9pm: Swing Yo Thing. International Lindy Hop teachers Rob and Diane lead swing classes. Mon: Tango With Christy Cote. $10 drop in. Tue: Salsa With Adrian Bermudez. $10 drop in. 1204 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City.

French Quarter Cabaret Sun, 6pm-midnight: Millennium Sundays. 195 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.773.8700.

Fuel Thu, 10pm: Fuego. Latin hip-hop and house with DJs Julius Papp, Steve Husted, Nappy and Mike Slim. cover varies. Fri, 5-9pm: Hi-Fi and Hi-Balls. Campy cocktail music with DJ A-Bomb Average. no cover. Mon, 9pm: Skandal. A variety of guest DJs spin 1960s era ska, rocksteady, northern soul, jazz and R&B. 21+. No cover. 44 S. Almaden Ave, San Jose, 408.295.7374.

Gasthaus Adler Fri, 9pm-2am: Old School Fridays. Dancing, Bid Whisk and Dominoes. Dress code enforced. Jeans OK. For mature adults only. 1380 S. Main St, Milpitas, 408.946.6141.

Jimmy's Fri-Sat: Dance Party. Top 40 dance music from the 70s, 80s and 90s. Wed: Element G. 5995 Mowry Ave, Newark, 510.744.6945.

Kleidon's Lounge Thu, 9pm: Rendezvous. Soulful funky house music. Call 408.820.4421 for info. Fri-Sat: DJ Dancing. 152 Post St, San Jose. 409.251.1936.

Molly Magee's Thu, Sat: DJ Dave. Fri, 9:30pm: DJ Dancing. W/DJ Efin Efren. 241 Castro St, Mountain View, 650.961.0108.

Polly Esther's and Culture Club Thu-Sat, 8pm-2am: Dance to Music from the '70s and '80s. Two clubs and three dance floors with a scenic VIP room, elevated dance cages and lit dance floors. Bachelorette parties welcome. cover varies. 396 S. First St., San Jose, 408.280.1977.

Riff's Lounge Night Club Sat, 9pm: Classic R&B Night Club. Sponsored by 98.1 KISS FM. Featuring DJ Raymond & Jerry O. 21+. $10 cover. 1811 Barber Lane, Milpitas.

Sapphire Fri-Sat: Sapphire. The new club features Top 40 and house provided by resident DJ Claudia, a.k.a. Sultry Hands, and other special guests (DJ John Jimenez, DJ Junior Soi and DJ Sam). 18+. 141 South Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale, 408.524.LIVE.

Senora Emma's Thu, 9:30pm: Tacos & Beer. Dress comfortably. 21+. no cover. 177 W. Santa Clara St., San Jose.

Toon's Thu: Getting Even. With DJ Jazzy C. 21+. Mon: DJ Shift. 21+. 52 E. Santa Clara St, San Jose, 408.292.7464.

The Usual Fri, doors 8pm; show 9pm: The Cheeseballs. 21+. $10 cover. Sat, 9pm (doors): Club Exit. With special guest DJs. 21+. Wed, 9pm (doors): Unique. San Jose's premier gay and lesbian party. 21+, cover varies. 400 S. First St, San Jose, 408.535.0330.

VooDoo Lounge Thu-Sat: Invogue. Featuring '70s, '80s and '90s dance hits. no cover before 10pm. Sun, 9pm-2am: Xotic. Soulful house music. Sun: Tops of the Pops. Deep funky domestic and international underground house music. Wed: Boogie Nights. Disco and funk with DJ Rated R. 14 S. Second St, San Jose, 408.286.VODO.

Waves Smokehouse & Saloon Thu: Velvet Shop. Wed: Caribbean Nights. 65 Post St, San Jose, 408.885.9283.

CLASSICAL

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The Bay Area Classical Singers A classical con-

Continued on page 64

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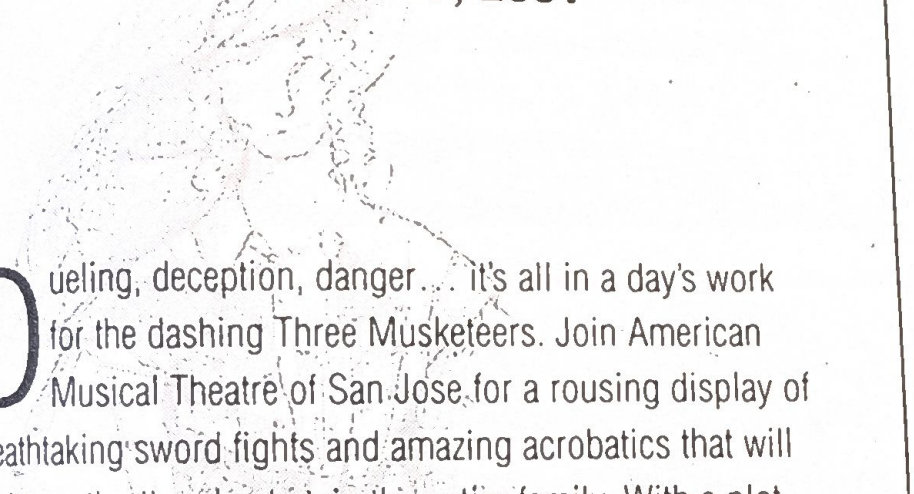

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SAT Mar 03 **DR. LOCO'S JALAPENOS**
Latin jazz, Chicano groove, and Mexican folklore –9pm

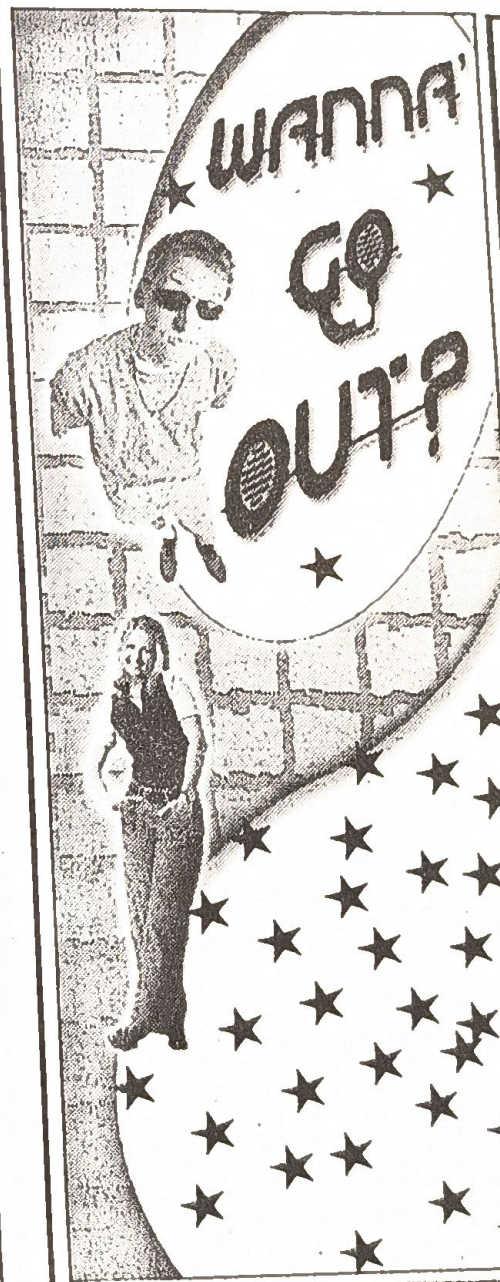
SUN Mar 04 **SIERRA MAESTRA**
Nine piece Son band from Havana, Cuba –9pm

ALIEN CRIME SYNDICATE + CHRIS LANDON & FRIENDS
Alternative power-pop rock'n'roll from Seattle and San Jose –8pm

TUE Mar 06 **LON LOPEZ + DAVE RAY**
Alternative power-pop rock'n'roll from San Jose –8pm

WED Mar 07 **THE SOUVENIRS**
Roots-rock, honkytonk, & rockabilly –9pm

UPCOMING
FRI 03/09 The Abarados + The Neptunes
SAT 03/10 Quimbomb & Oscuro
TUE 03/13 The Baseboard Heaters + Mountain Consolidated
FRI 03/16 Steakhouse + Frontier Wives + Luckydog
SAT 03/17 Charanga Nueve
WED 03/21 Nick Curran
FRI 03/23 Deke Dickerson & His Ecco-fonics
SAT 03/24 Dulce Mambo



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MAR 5 — 6:00 JAM W/ LAURA & FRIENDS 9:00 JAM W/ GUMBO
MAR 6 — 6:00 JAM W/ LAURA PRICE 9:00 BLUES CHANCE
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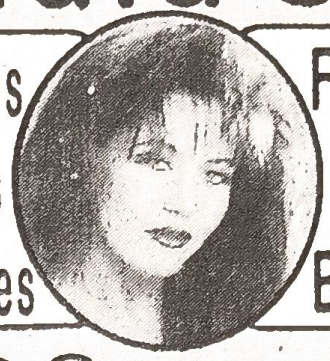

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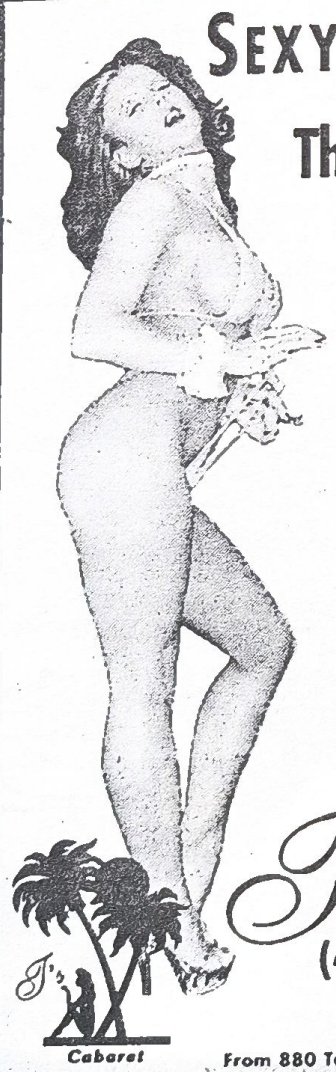

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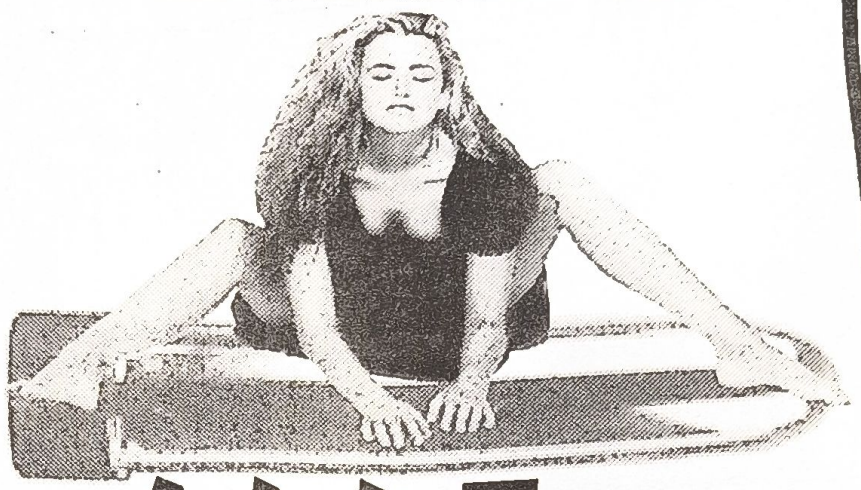

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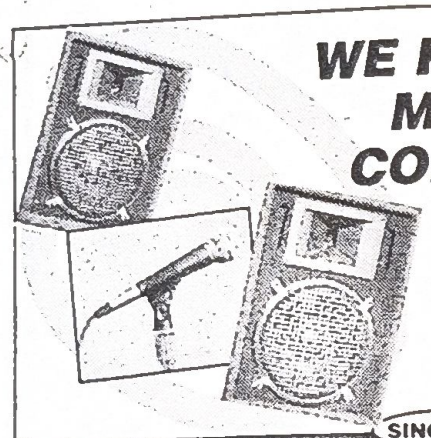

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Continued from page 60

cert of arias from operas and standard chamber songs. Sat, 8pm. $12/$10 seniors and students. Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell at Embarcadero, Palo Alto, 650.329.2527.

CYS Associate Orchestra The 91-member Intermediate orchestra will perform works by Auber, Nicolai, Britten, Smetana and Herold. Conducted by Maestro Leo Eylar. Sun, 2pm. free. Smithwick Theatre, Foothill College, 12345 El Monte Rd, Los Altos, 650.325.6666.

The Don Haneke Chorale Works by John Rutter. Fri, 8pm. Mission Santa Clara, Santa Clara University campus, Santa Clara, 408.782.7522.

The Fremont Symphony Orchestra This Musical Treat for Families concert includes Saint-Saens' *Carnival of the Animals* and the orchestra will be joined by dancers portraying lions, hens, mules, tortoises and kangaroos. Sun, 2pm and 3:30pm. $10/$5 children. Ohlone College Smith Center, 43600 Mission Blvd, Fremont, 510.791.1659.

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Invitational Choral Festival Featuring 12 junior college and high school choirs and the Choraliers directed by Dr. Charlene Archibeque and the Concert Choir directed by Elena Sharkova. Fri, 3pm and 7:30pm. free. San Jose State University Concert Hall, Seventh and San Carlos streets, San Jose, 408.924.4332.

Itzhak Perlman Hailed as the reigning virtuoso of the violin with a head as big as his talent and a gift for sharing his utter delight in making music. Tue, 8pm. $32-$16. Memorial Auditorium, Stanford, 650.725.ARTS.

Night of the Living Composers Works by Anton Webern, Timothy Bell, Linda Bouchard, Hi Kyung Kim and Steve Reich. Sat, 8pm. $15/$13 seniors and students. Music Center Recital Hall, UCSC, Santa Cruz, 831.459.2159.

San Jose Symphony Works by Wagner and Schumann. Fri-Sat, 8pm. San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd, San Jose. Also Sun, 2:30pm. Flint Center, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd, Cupertino, 408.288.2828.

San Jose Symphony Chamber Players Works by Mozart, Handel, Holst and more. Fri, 1-2pm. free; call to reserve a seat. Sunnyvale Community Center, 550 E. Remington Dr, Sunnyvale, 408.730.7560.

St. Petersburg String Quartet Sat, 8pm. $30/$40. Carriage House Theatre, Villa Montalvo, 15400 Montalvo Rd, Saratoga, 408.961.5858.

The Stanford Chamber Chorale Part of the Music at Trinity concert series. Fri, 3pm. $15-$20. Trinity Episcopal Church, 81 N. Second St, San Jose, 408.298.2324.

Tony Collins The trombonist will play following the Evensong service. Sun, 4pm service; concert follows. a free-will offering will be received. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 20 University Ave, Los Gatos, 408.354.2195.

Youth Orchestra With cellist Gigi Chow, winner of the Young Artist Competition. Works by Schumann and Mendelssohn. Thu, 3pm. San Jose Center for the Performing Arts, 255 Almaden Blvd, San Jose, 408.288.2828.

CONCERTS

Armored Saint With Swarm and ManMade God. Wed, doors 8pm. $13. The Pound, Pier 96, San Francisco, 415.826.9202.

Backstreet Boys The Black and Blue World Tour. Thu-Fri, 7:30pm. $61.75/$52.25. Oakland Arena, Oakland, 408.998.2277.

Barbara Morrison The jazz and blues vocalist performs with tenor saxman Teddy Edwards. Sun, 4:30pm. $21 contribution. Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society, Miramar Beach, Half Moon Bay, 650.726.4143.

Claudia Villela and Ricardo Peixoto A CD-release party. Mon, 8 and 10pm. $15. Yoshi's at Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510.238.9200.

Drummers in a Jam (DIAJ) With Ma Boukaka, Robert Bonn, Laurn Worth and others. Bring drums and percussion toys for community jam after-performance. Sat, 8pm. East West Bookshop, 324 Castro St, Mountain View, 650.968.9500.

Echoes of Winter Concert Sun, 1-3pm (with jazz vocal group the Jennifer Lee Trio). free. Mirassou Champagne Cellars, 300 College Ave, Los Gatos, 408.395.3790.

Elio Reve y su Charangon Cuban salsa band makes its first West Coast appearance. Fri, doors 9pm; dance lessons, 9:30pm. $16 advance/$20 door. Cocoanut Grove, 400 Beach St, Santa Cruz, 831.423.2053.

Continued on page 67

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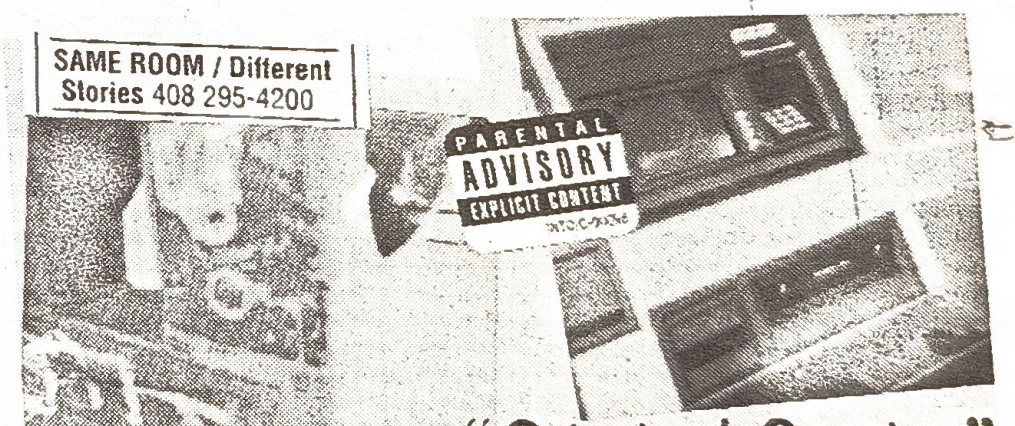

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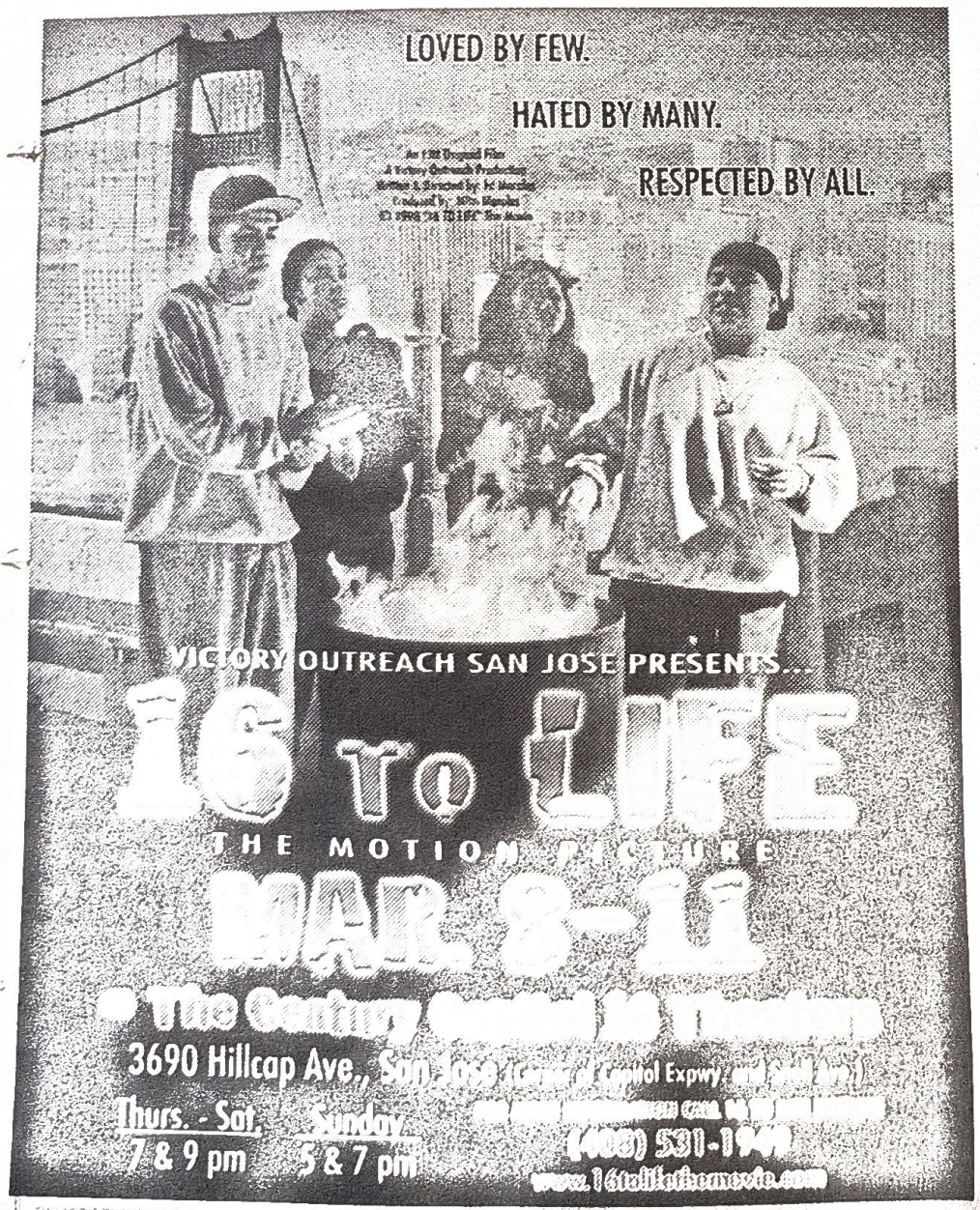


AURAL FIXATION

Cut Short

Insolence left fans hungry for more

I WENT TO SAN FRANCISCO last Wednesday (Feb. 21) to catch **Insolence**'s return to the Bay Area at **Maritime Hall** with **Insane Clown Posse** and **Marz**. But the band was moved from the second to the first-time slot, and its short set was over by 8:20pm. Unfortunately, I only caught a few songs and was disappointed that the San Jose band (which has its **Maverick Records** debut, tentatively titled *15 oz.*, coming out May 22) didn't fully unleash its new material. In fact, it seemed like the blink-and-you-missed-it show was over as soon as it began. I suspect the band cut its own set short since it appeared unhappy about the bad sound situation.

Since I was in San Francisco anyway, I decided to try to get into the sold-out **Willie Nelson** concert at the **Fillmore**. Luck was with me, and as I walked into the historic club, the country legend was dazzling the audience with his warm rendition of "Georgia on My Mind." It was so surreal to go from Maritime Hall. with the war-painted ICP crowd preparing for battle, to the Fillmore packed with Nelson's nonthreatening, but just as enthusiastic, fans. Nelson's appeal spans generations and cultural boundaries. I've yet to meet one person who doesn't respect his remarkable abilities. Though I attended the concert alone, Nelson's timeless music made for excellent company, and I felt like I was in a room filled with kindred spirits. He manages to satisfy all his audience's unspoken song requests while still throwing in some surprises. His generous set list included "On the Road Again," "Angel Flying Too Close to the Ground," "Blue Eyes Cryin' in the Rain," "Seven Spanish Angels," "Still Is Still Movin' to Me," "City of New Orleans," "Me and Paul," "Milk Cow Blues," "To All the Girls I've Loved Before" and "I Never Cared for You," along with new songs that might be titled "Gypsy" and "Lost in the Great Divide." Almost 68 years old, the unassuming songwriter absolutely charms his audiences.

Last time I saw **Jerry Cantrell** was in December when he jumped onstage with **Swarm** at **Paradise Lounge**. He was sporting a grizzly beard and looked like a lanky Gregg Allman. Last Thursday (Feb. 22), a clean-shaven Cantrell performed at the **Usual** flanked by **M.I.R.V.**'s **Brian Kehoe** on guitar, **Robert Trujillo** (known for his work with **Ozzy Osbourne**) on bass, **Faith No More**'s **Mike Bordin** on drums and members of **Comes With the Fall**, an impressive band that unexpectedly served as main support. Solo, Cantrell still delivers that dark **Alice in Chains** sound, and the confident guitarist played material from *Boggy Depot*, songs from his forthcoming album, AiC hits ("Heaven Beside You," "Got Me Wrong," "Them Bones") and a cover of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama."

It's with great sadness that I end this column on a tragic note. An important member of the South Bay's music community, **"Rockin' Rob" Dapello**, passed away last Saturday night (Feb. 24) at the **Cactus Club**. He was 33. Dapello, a notable writer for *Zero Magazine* and member of the band **Uncle Lucifer**, was at the club, like always, supporting local musicians. He was watching his friends **Krenshaw** perform from the stairs by the stage when he complained of feeling nauseous and quickly passed out. Early reports say he suffered a fatal brain aneurysm. A nurse and medical technician attending the show tried to revive him before the paramedics arrived. According to eyewitnesses, the paramedics made every effort to save him and were still trying to revive Dapello as they wheeled him out of the club. Apparently he never regained consciousness. Dapello is survived by his mother **Minna Dapello** and his brother **Lars Frederiksen** of Rancid and Lars Frederiksen and the Bastards. *Zero* is organizing a farewell tribute show for March 18. Call **Larry Trujillo** at 408.971.8511 for details.

PLAN AHEAD: **Dread Zeppelin** and **Triplex**, Mar. 1 at the Usual; **NMSO4**, **Prop 808**, the **Stoned Messiahs** and **Fleshole**, Mar. 1 at the **Cactus Club**; **NOFX** Mar. 1 at the **Catalyst** in Santa Cruz; **Setacide**, **Shortie**, **Caiba** and **Down2None**, Mar. 2 at the Cactus; **Kofy Brown**, Mar. 2 at the **Icon Supperclub** in Palo Alto; **Anton Schwartz**, Mar. 2 at **Agenda's Cellar**; **Slow Gherkin**, **O.P.M.** and the **Plus Ones**, Mar. 2 at the **Catalyst** in Santa Cruz; **Carpet Room**, Mar. 2 at the **Bean Scene** in Sunnyvale; **Willie's Conception**, **Floppy Rods**, **Monkey** and **Funkranomicon**, Mar. 3 at the Cactus; **Phatty Patty**, Mar. 3 at **Fremont High School** in Sunnyvale; **Les Claypool's Frog Brigade**, Mar. 3 at the **Warfield** in San Francisco; **40 Grit**, **Movement** and others, Mar. 3 at the **Pound** in San Francisco; Mar. 4 at the **Gaslighter Theater** in Campbell; **Alien Crime Syndicate** and **Chris Landon Band**, Mar. 4 at Fuel; **Dr. Madd Vibe**, Mar. 5 at the Cactus; **Lon Lopez** and **Dave Ray**, Mar. 6 at Fuel.

Sarah Quellan
squelland@metronews.co

Continued from page 64

Face to Face With Snapcase, H2O and the Explosion. Thu. Maritime Hall, 450 Harrison St, San Francisco, 415.974.0534.

Festival to End Exploitation of Child Farm Workers Bay Area bands perform at the Bandshell to help raise awareness. Sat, 1-4:30pm. free; donations encouraged; proceeds go to Human Rights Watch. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 415.362.2250.

I Need More Dance Night Rock and roll dance night with '60s garage music, glitter punk and old-school rock and metal. Tue. $3 (free before 10pm). Lido's Nightclub, 30 S. First St, San Jose.

Jacotte Chollet "Multidimensional Music: Healing Inner Fragmentation." Presented by Sharing Information to Facilitate Transformation (SHIFT). Wed, 7:30pm. $12. Divine Science Community Center, 1540 Hicks Ave, San Jose, 650.343.5202.

Jimmy Smith Wed. Wed-Thu, $20; Fri-Sat $24; Sun discounts for kids. Yoshi's at Jack London Square, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland.

Kalia Flexer's Fieldharmonik Part of the San Jose Jazz Society's Sunday Afternoon Diamond Series. Sun, 3-5pm. $10. Hyatt Sainte Claire, Marriott and W. San Carlos streets, San Jose, 408.288.7557.

Kevin Carr A program of Irish music, songs and stories. Sat, 1pm. $6/$4 seniors and children. Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell at Embarcadero, Palo Alto, 650.329.2527.

Kitka Renowned women's chorus Kitka performs at a concert to celebrate Women's History Month. Thu, 8pm. Free. Memorial Church, Stanford, 650.723.1995.

Kool Katz A CD release party featuring The Hittmen, Touch N Go, Max Cabello, Latin Groove, Johnny Guitar, DJ Frank Perez and special guest artist Juan Escovedo. Sat, 7pm-midnight. $15. Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 344 Tully Rd, San Jose.

Leftover Salmon Fri-Sat, doors 8pm; show 9pm. $18.50. The Fillmore, 1805 Geary at Fillmore, San Francisco, 415.421.TIXS.

Les Claypool's Frog Brigade Sat, doors 7pm; show 8pm. $22.50. The Warfield, 982 Market St, San Francisco, 415.421.TIXS.

Less Than Jake With New Found Glory, Anti-Flag and the Teen Idols. Tue, doors 7pm. $13. Maritime Hall, 450 Harrison St, San Francisco, 415.974.0534.

The Listening Hour A language arts talent show. Thu. 12:30-1:15pm. free. School of Music and Dance Concert Hall, San Jose State University, San Jose, 408.924.4631.

Noise Pop Bands Superchunk, Spoon, Matt Suggs and Action Slacks. Sat, doors 7:30pm; show 8:30pm. $13. Blonde Redhead, Pleasure Forever, Saint Andre and Jet Black Crayon. Sun, doors 7pm; show 8pm. $15. Bimbo's 365 Club, 1025 Columbus Ave, San Francisco, 415.474.0365.

Noise Pop Bands Pedro the Lion, Starflyer 59, Jim Yoshii Pile-Up and Pinq. Thu, 9pm. $8. Girls Against Boys, the Pattern, Alien Crime Syndicate and Pocket for Corduroy. Fri, 9pm. $10/$12. The Aislers Set, the Shins, the Orange Peels and Henry Miller Sextet. Sat, 1:30pm. $7. Fastbacks, Young Fresh Fellows, the Minus 5 and more. Sat, 9pm. $8. Sunday's Best, onelinedrawing, the Good Life and Droo Church. Sun, 3:30pm. $7. Bottom of the Hill, 1233 17th St, San Francisco, 415.621.4455.

Noise Pop Bands Bright Eyes, Mark Eitzel, Track Star and Azure Ray. Fri, doors 7:30pm; show 8pm. $13. White Stripes, Holly Golightly, Vue and Lost Kids. Sat, doors 7:30pm; show 8pm. $12. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St, San Francisco, 415.885.0750.

Noise Pop Bands Zen Guerrilla, the Bell Rays, Icarus Line and 7th Standard. Thu, doors 7pm. $10. Slim's, 333 11th St, San Francisco, 415.522.0333.

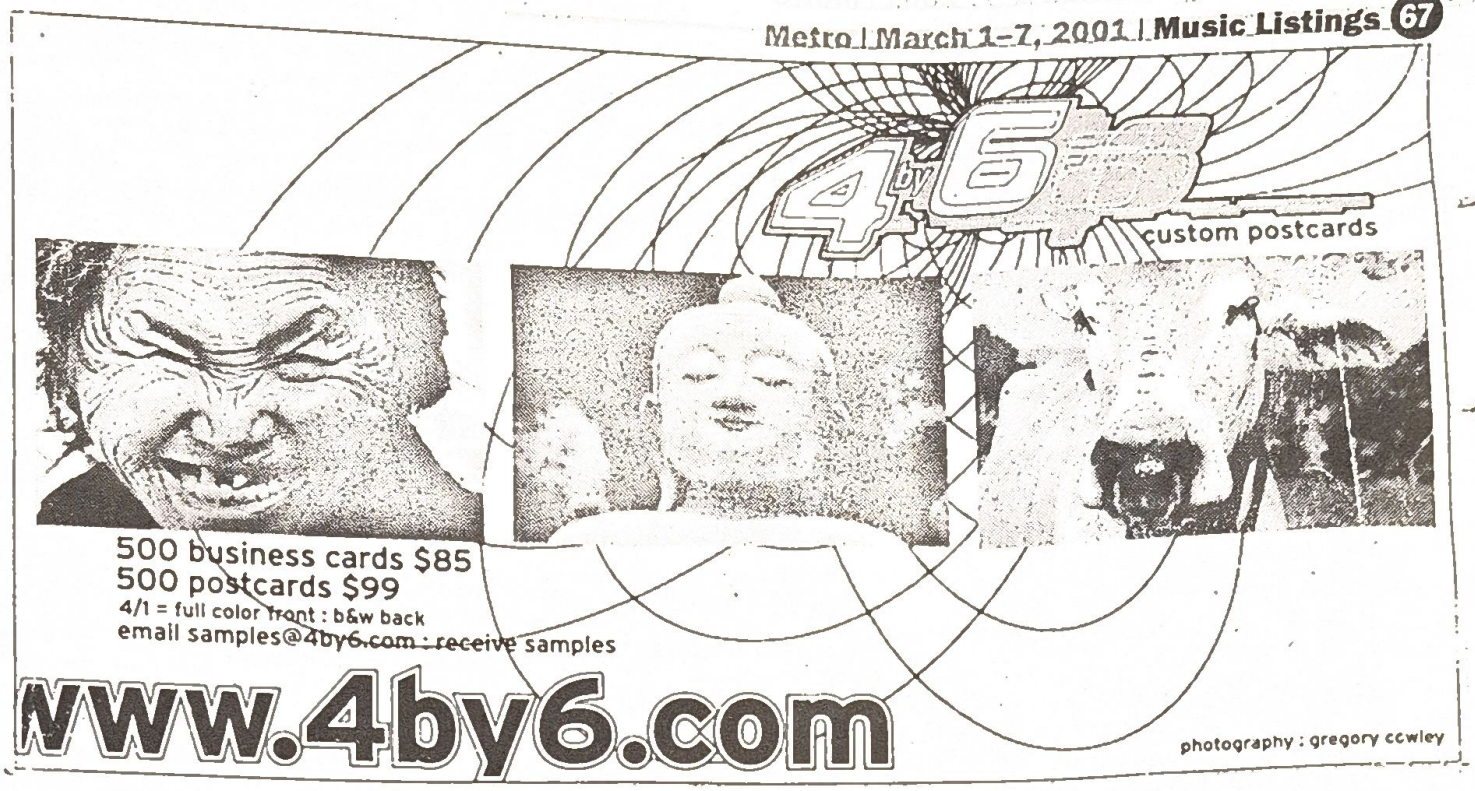
Noise Pop Bands Crooked Fingers, Damien Jurardo and John Vanderslice. Fri, 5pm. $7. Tarentel, the Court and Spark and the Church Steps. Fri, 9pm. Oranger, Fiver, Persephone's Bees and Jolly. Sat, doors 4pm; show 4:30pm. $7. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market St, San Francisco, 415.861.5016.

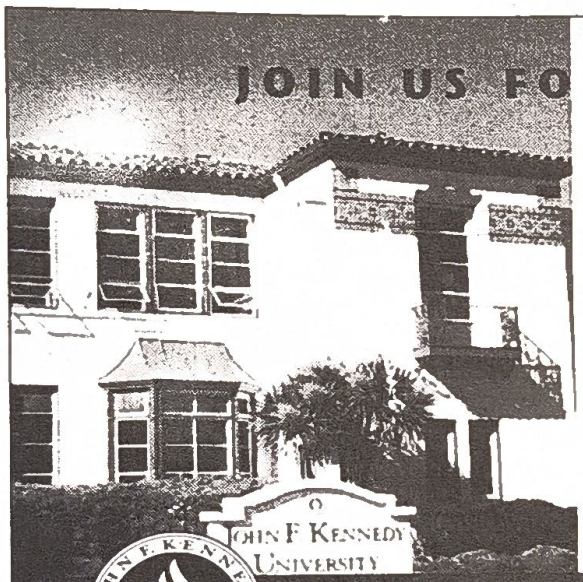
Noise Pop Bands Devil in the Woods Party with Preston School of Industry (featuring Scott Kannberg formerly of Pavement), Cole Marquis and Aaron Nudelman. Thu, 6pm. The Make Out Room, San Francisco.

Planting Seeds With 40 Grit, Barbee Killed Kenn, Flesh, Movement and G2K. Sat, doors 7pm. $8. The Pound, Pier 96, San Francisco, 415.826.9202.

Sarah Brightman Mon, 8pm. $75.25/$45.25. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 747 Howard, San Francisco, 408.998.2277.

Tibetan Monks of Gaden Shartse Monestary Sacred dance and chant from Tibet. Sat, lecture, 2-4pm; dance and chant performance, 8pm. $20 astrology lecture/$12 performance/$30 for both events. Veterans Memorial Building, 846 Front St, Santa Cruz, 831.454.0478.





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Picks by Sarah Mueller (SM) and Miriam Wolf (MW)

'Don't Make Me Say Things That Will Hurt You'

March 2–24, Fri.–Sat. at 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. $16. 415.861.5079 or www.therhino.org.

Doug Holsclaw, one of the Bay Area's foremost queer stage entertainers, revives his acerbic one-man show for its 10th anniversary at Theatre Rhinoceros. Holsclaw reprises his role as Pete Hilton, his trashy alter-ego, who sits atop the city in his pink palace. Whether his isolation is self-inflicted or he truly is the last queen on earth is unclear as Hilton hilariously plots revenge on the world he feels has wronged him, along with a dinner party or two. His series of razor-sharp vignettes follows the arc of the 10 stages of grief. The beloved and accomplished Sabin Epstein (formerly of A.C.T.) makes his directorial return to the Bay Area with the revival of this hit play. **(SM)**

'Dirt Roads and Back Doors'

Feb. 28–March 3, 8pm; March 4, 2pm and 8pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center. $14.50–$18.50. 415.441.3400.

Once a featured performer of ODC, Robert Moses has gone on to form his own dance troupe, KIN, which brings to life the African American experience through movement. This outstanding troupe has won an Isadora Duncan Award for Best Ensemble Performance (in 1999) as well as accolades from several Bay Area publications, and has worked with a veritable village of world-renowned choreographers, dancers, musicians and others. His latest offering, *Dirt Roads and Back Doors*, uses a variety of blues music to reflect the often melancholy and frustrating nuances of life. Through this series of songs and dances, the performers will pay tribute to those who have endured the blues, as well as to those who help us struggle through them. **(SM)**

George Carlin

March 5, 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. $17. 415.392.4400.

The man who first brought the oxymoron inherent in "jumbo shrimp" to our attention gets (somewhat) serious tonight as he's interviewed by Marcia Brandwynne at the Herbst Theatre as part of the On Art and Politics 2001 series. And Carlin is certainly more than the sum of his famous bits (like Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television). He's been plying the comedy trade since the mid-'50s, and as one of the first hippie comics, he blazed a trail for all the countercultural funny men and ladies that followed. He's also funny in a range of media, from stand-up to films to publishing. His newest book, *Napalm and Silly Putty*, will be published next month. **(MW)**

Robert Moses' KIN performs 'Dirt Roads and Back Doors.'

Onwordo

'010101: Art in Technological Times'

March 3–July 8. SF MOMA, 151 Third St. $9. 415.357.4000 or www.sfmoma.org.

Since the Bay Area is the center of the digital universe, it just makes sense that the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art has mounted "010101: Art in Technological Times," an extremely ambitious and fascinating look at what advances in technology have done for (and to) artists and designers. Scores of artists will be represented, either in the gallery show, or on the special 010101 website (which has been open since January 1). Highlights will include Brian Eno's sound installation, Joachem Hendrick's drawings produced by scanning microscopic eye movements, and Tatsuo Miyajima's serene Floating Time, which incorporates digital imagery projected into a darkened room. **(MW)**

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1984 *Best of the '80s.* *Cat Club, 9pm–2am, $5.* ***Blend*** *Reggae, salsa and African & Brazilian rhythms from Corazon & Co.* *Storyville, 10pm–2am.* ***Electrofreq*** *Underground beats.* *Butter, 9pm–2am, $5.* ***Faith*** *Young gay house and groove.* *City Nights, 9:30pm–2:30am, $10.* ***flavasauce*** *Techno happy hour.* *Decibel, 6pm–10:30pm, $4.* ***Global Warming*** *Afro-Latin-Brazilian beats.* *111 Minna, 9pm–2am, $10.* ***Oscillations*** *House from resident DJs Dust, Huey and MjK.* *An-Sibin, 9:30pm–2am, free.* ***Popscene*** *Brit-pop, new wave, and '60s soul.* *330 Ritch, 10pm–3am, $5.* ***Reform Skool*** *Alterna-queer house party. The Stud, 10pm–4am, $5.* ***Rush*** *Breakbeats from rotating DJs.* *Bâs, 9pm–2am, $10.*	***Aranji*** *Live electronic and art.* *Six, 10pm–3:30am, $10.* ***Bubble & Squeak*** *Guest DJs spinning all styles.* *Amnesia, 10pm–2am, $5.* ***Club Q*** *Good beats and vibes from Mixtress Page Hodel.* *Club Townsend, 9pm–3am, $8.* ***Dollhouse*** *House and live bands & go-go dancers.* *The Stud, 9pm–3am, $6.* ***Here and Now*** *House, drum 'n' bass and two-step.* *Bâs, 9pm–2am, $15.* ***Life*** *Deep soul, R&B, groove and lounge.* *VSF, 9pm–2am.* ***Mission K.O.*** *Dueling DJs, house vs. breaks, hips, etc.* *26 Mix, 10pm–2am, $5.* ***Nikita*** *With resident DJs Jerry, Taj, Simon, Gianni and Michael Anthony.* *1015 Folsom, 10pm–6am, $10.* ***Oxygen*** *With resident DJs Julius Papp and Franky Boissy.* *111 Minna, 9pm–2am, free.* ***True Skool*** *Electronic soul.* *Storyville, 9pm–2am, $10.*	***Eklektic*** *Drum 'n' bass from DJs Sage, Stareyes et al and weekly guests.* *Cat Club, 10pm–2am, $10.* ***Gossip*** *Hip-hop and funk classics. Storyville, 10pm–2am, $10.* ***Groove Kitty*** *House, hip-hop and rare grooves.* *Glas Kat, 9:30pm–2am.* ***New Wave City*** *'80s new wave dance party.* *King Street Garage, 9pm–3am, $10.* ***Other Whirled*** *After-hours techno and house.* *Endup, 6am–4pm, $5.* ***Oushaya*** *DJs spin Latin rhythms.* *VSF, 9pm–2am.* ***Phusion*** *Eclectic club and house.* *26 Mix, 10pm–2am, $7.* ***Pure*** *Deep house, garage and groove.* *Bâs, 9pm–2am.* ***Push*** *Techno and drum 'n' bass from resident DJs Travis, Matt Valenz, and Chris Orr.* *Six, 9pm–2am, $5.* ***Release*** *4 levels, 10+ DJs, all the fun you can stand.* *1015 Folsom, 10pm, $15.*	***Blur*** *All-evening dance party with resident DJs Gilad and Scott Bliss.* *Rawhide II, 5pm–2am, $5.* ***Compression*** *Drum 'n' bass.* *An-Sibin, 9:30pm–2am.* ***Dub Mission*** *Reggae and dub.* *Elbo Room, 9pm–2am, $4.* ***Gasoline*** *Hard house and techno.* *The Stud, 10pm–3am, $6.* ***Rebirth*** *Soul, hip-hop and R&B.* *330 Ritch, 10pm–2am.* ***Reggae Sundaze*** *With DJ Ras David I.* *Nickie's BBQ, 9pm–2am, $3.* ***Spundae*** *Sunday beats at the megaclub.* *1015 Folsom, 10pm–5:30am, $5.* ***Sunday School*** *Rotating DJs Demillo, BB Hayes, Steve Husted, et al.* *Up & Down Club, 9pm–2am, $10.* ***Sunday T-Dance*** *When Saturday night should never end.* *Endup, 5am–10pm.* ***Sushi Sundays*** *Girl party from DJ Gray & guests.* *26 Mix, 3:30pm–10pm, $5.*	***Club Dread*** *Reggae and dancehall. Justice League, 9pm–2am, $10.* ***Forward*** *House and groove.* *An-Sibin, 8pm–2am, $3 (free before 10).* ***Grateful Dead Jams*** *With Darkstar Dan.* *Nickie's BBQ, 9pm–2am, $3.* ***Joy*** *Techno, rare groove and house with DJ Travis.* *Liquid, 8pm, free.* ***Movin' On Up*** *Deep house from DJs Marc Anthony & Kevin West.* *The Top, 10pm, $3.* ***Smoove Mondays*** *Smooth funk and house.* *Blind Tiger Lounge, 9pm–2am.* ***Star Lounge*** *Soul, drum 'n' bass, down-tempo and dancehall with DJ Henry.* *Up & Down Club, 10pm, $5.* ***Tranquility Base*** *Smooth ambient from DJs Frank, Dylan and Jonas Judd.* *26 Mix, 9pm–2am, free.* ***Tranquilo*** *Drum 'n' bass and hip-hop.* *Amnesia, 10pm–2am, free.*	***AfricaAsiaArabia*** *International music from DJ Cheb I Sabbah.* *Nickie's BBQ, 9pm–2am.* ***Coolin'*** *Beats from TJ and weekly guest DJs.* *Blind Tiger Lounge, 9pm–2am.* ***Down There*** *Down-tempo and hip-hop.* *26 Mix, 9pm–2am, free.* ***Fuck Tuesdays*** *'80s, hip-hop and soul.* *Backflip, 10pm–2am.* ***Honey*** *House from DJs Joe Lanzon et al.* *Butter, 7pm–2am.* ***Impulse*** *Techno and dance.* *An-Sibin, 9:30pm–2am, free.* ***In n' Out*** *Classic '60s and '70s soul.* *330 Ritch, 9pm–2am, $5.* ***Rhythmic Trip*** *Beats from DJs Swing and DJ Unity.* *111 Minna, 7pm–2am, $5.* ***Roderick's Chamber*** *Goth and industrial.* *City Nights, 9pm–3am.* ***Taboo*** *House, garage and classics.* *Liquid, 9pm–2am, $3.*	***Break*** *Hard beats and breaks.* *An-Sibin, 9:30pm–2am, $3.* ***Bondage A Go-Go*** *Industrial and '80s goth.* *Cat Club, 9pm–3am, $10.* ***Cream*** *Hard beats from DJ David Harness.* *Butter, 9pm–2am.* ***The Dish*** *Smooth beats from DJs Juss Derek & Luke.* *Blind Tiger Lounge, 9pm–2am.* ***Elephunk*** *Hip-hop and funk.* *Justice League, 8pm–2am, $7.* ***Nessun Dorma*** *Ultrahip fusion from DJs Agnes B, Evan Madden and Dj Anthony.* *HiFi, 8pm–2am, $5.* ***Qoöl*** *Techno lounge happy hour from DJ Spesh & Co.* *111 Minna, 5–9pm.* ***Poly's Playhouse*** *Weekly jam with DJs & live musicians.* *Hush Hush, 9pm–2am, $4.* ***Séance*** *House and two-step.* *Backflip, 9pm–2am, $5.* ***Universal 7*** *With resident DJs Laron, Solar, et al.* *Rawhide II, 10pm–2am.*

Film Reviews

Reviews by Jim Aquino, Michael S. Gant, Michelle Goldberg, Don Hines, Sarah Quelland, Mary Spicuzza, Richard von Busack and Heather Zimmerman.

NEW REVIEWS

cine16 Respected documentarian and essayist Richard Leacock, currently in town for Cinequest, swings by for an evening at cine16, which tonight will be screening three classroom academic films made by Leacock. Leacock will introduce and discuss the following films: *A Magnet Laboratory* (1960) a unusually lively look inside—what else?—a magnet laboratory. Six scientists at an MIT lab demonstrate the power of electro-magnets; during one such demonstration, an experiment catches fire. *Frames of Reference* (1960), again, the title says it all about this exploration of frames of reference that makes use of a rotating table and "moving" furniture. With narration by University of Toronto professors Donald Ivey and Patterson Hume Also: *Desert Nomads (French Morocco)* (1949) photographed by Richard Leacock, a look at the old life in French Morocco, featuring women from the local bordello moonlighting in the film as dancing girls. Leacock will also be making some appearances at Cinequest, at "From Nanook to Today," a Cinequest DXD panel discussion about technology and filmmaking, Mar 2 at 5:15pm at Camera 3, and at the Maverick Spirit Award Presentation for his film, *A Musical Adventure in Siberia with Sarah Caldwell*, Mar 2 at 9pm at Camera 3: Read Leacock's essays on filmmaking at http//cine16.com/leackessays.htm. *(Plays Mar 1 in San Jose at 7 pm in the basement of the Agenda Lounge, admission is free but seating is limited , arrive by 6pm to assure seating; 399 S. First St; www.cine16.com. Leacock Cinequest events take place at Camera 3, Second and San Carlos streets, San Jose; www.cinequest.org.)* (AR)

Faithless (R; 142 min.) See review on page 71. *(Opens Fri in San Jose at the Towne Theater.)*

The Mexican (R; 123 min.) See review on page 72. *(Opens Fri in Gilroy at Platinum Theaters; in Hollister at Premiere Cinema; in Milpitas at Century 20 Great Mall; in Mountain View at Century Cinema 16; in San Jose at Century Capitol 16, Century 10 Berryessa, Century 21, Century 22, Century Capitol Drive-in; in Santa Clara at AMC Mercado 20.)*

See Spot Run (PG; 94 min.) A comedy about a mailman (David Arquette) who takes in a stray dog that's actually a former FBI drug-sniffing dog and is being sought by both the mob and his FBI owner. *(Opens Fri in Gilroy at Platinum Theaters; in Hollister at Premiere Cinema; in Milpitas at Century 20 Great Mall; in Mountain View at Century Cinema 16; in San Jose at Century Capitol 16, Century 10 Berryessa, Century Capitol Drive-in; in Santa Clara at AMC Mercado 20.)*

3,000 Miles to Graceland (R; 120 min.) See review on page 75. *(Plays in Gilroy at Platinum Theaters; in Hollister at Premiere Cinema; in Milpitas at Century 20 Great Mall; in Mountain View at Century Cinema 16; in San Jose at Century Capitol 16, Century 10 Berryessa, Century 22, Century Capitol Drive-in; in Santa Clara at AMC Mercado 20.)*

REVIVALS

Hallelujah, I'm a Bum/The Kid From Spain (1933/1932) This week, the Stanford revives some rare musicals. *Hallelujah, I'm a Bum* concerns Bumper (Al Jolson), the mayor of the hobo jungle in Central Park, who rescues the sucidal mistress (Madge Evans) of his buddy, the real mayor of New York (Frank Morgan, looking very tired). The tunes—none well known—are by Rodgers and Hart. Jolson's appeal has vanished utterly. The wide, conniving gap-toothed face is like a yokel comedian in an Eastern European movie; and the voice has basically what you'd want for an early sound star: loud. And in this lesser movie, perhaps only of historical interest, he's caught in a schmaltzy plot. He pours show-biz oil on troubled waters (represented by silent comedian Harry Langdon as a Communist agitator called Egghead who keeps trying to stir up the happy hobos with a bunch of foolish ideas). Lastly, the film's suffused with too much racism to shrug off. Incidentally, Harry "Haywire Mac" MacClintock's famous song, from which this movie lifted its title, doesn't turn up here. BILLED WITH *The Kid From Spain*. Discovered hiding in a girl's dormitory, Eddie Cantor and his buddy Robert Young head for Mexico, where Cantor is forced to disguise himself as Don Sebastian, the bullfighter (and, again with the black face!). Cantor got the idea from the life of his friend Sidney Franklin, the Brooklyn-born matador once interviewed by Lillian Ross of *The New Yorker* (it's collected in Ross' book *Reporting*). When asked if he feared the bulls, Franklin replied, "Death, shmeath, as long as I've got my health." This million-dollar musical (back when a million dollars meant something) features Paulette Goddard, Lucille Ball, Betty Grable and Jane Wyman among the thinly dressed chorines. Dance sequences by Busby Berkeley. *(Plays Mar 3 in Palo Alto at the Stanford Theater.)* (RvB)

Love Me Tonight/One Hour With You (Both 1932) Maurice Chevalier and Jeanette MacDonald star in a story of a dashing tailor mistaken for a count. Rouben Mamoulian's direction is so frothy that it "makes the famed Lubitsch touch fall like a dull thud," writes Mamoulian partisan Tom Milne. The cast includes Myrna Loy as the man-hungry niece and C. Aubrey Smith as a harrumphing old bridge-playing bore of a Duke (a game, as Raymond Chandler said of chess, that's the most severe waste of intelligence this side of an advertising agency). Tunes include "Lover," "Mimi" and "Isn't it Romantic?" BILLED WITH *One Hour With You*. Sore temptation for Chevalier when his wife's best friend arrives. MacDonald and Genevieve Tobin co-star in a film based on the same play co-director Ernst Lubitsch had filmed as *The Marriage Circle*. Seven songs, too, of which the title tune (a favorite of Daffy Duck's) was the only noted one. *(Plays Mar 1-2 in Palo Alto at the Stanford Theater.)* (RvB)

The Phantom President/Going Hollywood (1932/1933) George M. Cohan's big movie appearance came in *The Phantom President*, which gets filed under "novelties." The irascible Cohan hated Hollywood and the make-up and tinsel and couldn't wait to get back to the right side of the Hudson. He stars here in a *Prisoner of Zenda* plot: he's a singing snake-oil pitchman who is the exact double of the president of the U.S. His vice prez is Jimmy Durante (the real star of the show); also stars Claudette Colbert. Songs by Rodgers and Hart. BILLED WITH *Going Hollywood*. Bing Crosby sings while visiting schoolteacher Marion Davies adores him; Raoul Walsh directed. Now it can be seen with one's own eyes whether Davies was actually a good light comedienne or merely extremely well connected. *(Plays Mar 8-9 in Palo Alto at the Stanford Theater.)* (RvB)

Viennese Nights/The Vagabond King (Both 1930) Over the course of 40 years, a Viennese composer (Alexander Gray) has to sit back as the woman he loves has her heart broken by marriage to a roué (Walter Pidgeon). Vivienne Segal plays the love object; this, the first operetta written for the screen, has songs by Oscar Hammerstien II and Sigmund Romberg. BILLED WITH *The Vagabond King*. Based on a popular operetta, this, the first Technicolor musical film from Paramount is the original version of the story later remade with a Preston Sturges script (as *If I Were King*). Dennis King stars as François Villon, the thief/poet of the 1400s who during wartime is made a temporary king by his liege, Louis XI. This edition was written by Herman Mankiewicz, the Algonquinian who wrote the first script for *Citizen Kane*; it co-stars Warner Oland (the Norwegian actor who ended up playing Charlie Chan) and Lillian Roth, a pretty little ingenue who developed a sad drinking problem. *(Plays Mar 4-5 in Palo Alto at the Stanford Theater.)* (RvB)

Wild Reeds (1994) André Techiné's breakthrough film in America, but not one of his most accessible. (I prefer *Thieves.*) This one turns on arcane points about the Algerian crisis—and yes, you do have to know about this history to understand scenes like the Algerian expatriate Henri (Frédéric Gorny) weeping over the sentencing of General Raoul Savan. The film concerns various sensitive students at a rural boarding school in 1962, tormented by their impulses as the political crisis unfolds. François (Gael Moral), who is gay, loses his brother in the war. The communist/feminist Maite (Elodie Bouchez of *The Dream Life of Angels*) is the daughter of the teacher who refused to help the brother of her boyfriend, Serge (Stéphane Rideau), when he tried to desert the army. And Maite has an unresolved crush on François. To Techiné's credit, the tangle of reeds isn't harvested into a tidy bundle. The talk is rarefied ("What is the reason we met?" "I don't know; does life have a reason?"). Perhaps the movie is best as an introduction to Bouchez, not Techiné. *(Plays Mar 7 at 8pm in Palo Alto at the French Cine-Club, Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Rd, Palo Alto; 650.325.3831.)* (RvB)

Rocky Horror Picture Show Call it what you like: flotsam from the wreckage of the '70s, a piece of the Old World before AIDS, herpes and Reagan, or the ultimate cult musical. The fact remains that someone out there apparently hasn't seen this one yet, so here's hoping it makes a new generation of preteens a little more comfortable with their sexuality. Evil, perverted bisexual Dr. Frank N. Furter (Tim Curry) conducts strange experiments in his Indiana castle to which clean-cut Brad and Janet are forced to bear witness. They are joined by the various glitter-rat denizens of the castle, including Riff Raff (Richard O'Brian, who scripted) and Eddie (Meatloaf). *(Plays Sat, Mar 3, at midnight in Menlo Park at the Park Theater.)* (RvB)

REVIEWS

All the Pretty Horses (PG-13) Badly photographed, Billy Bob Thornton's film version of Cormac McCarthy's novel *All the Pretty Horses* was reduced two hours from a reputed four-hour original, and the result looks like a Benihana chef did the edit. The story tells how the cowboy Cole (Matt Damon) heads to Mexico in 1949 with his partner, Rawlins (Henry Thomas). Cole falls for Alejandra (Penelope Cruz), the daughter of a ranchero, and pays a harsh penalty for it. Cruz doesn't seem like the inevitable "trouble" she calls herself. And her love scene with Damon in a chilly, apparently studio-built pond isn't the stuff of doomed passion. Maybe Damon's appeal is all on the surface, all in that rocklike handsomeness, which, in

Continued on next page

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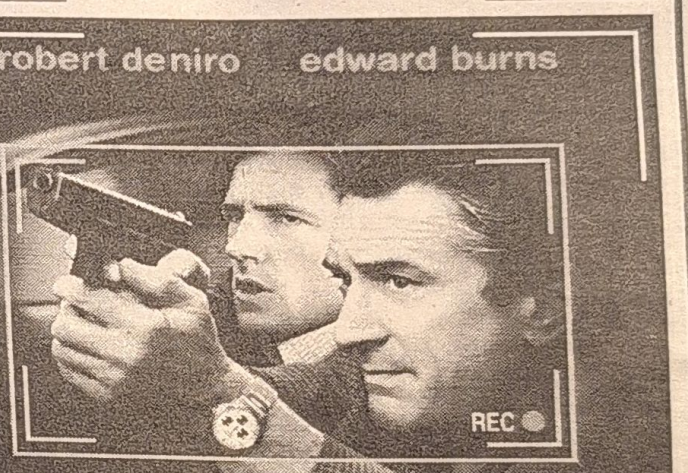

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Continued from previous page

moments of strain, can look like the swollen face of an injured child. There may be more facets to Damon I haven't seen yet, but when he underplays—or plays a Texan—it's not cinema, it's geology. (RvB)

Before Night Falls (R; 133 min.) As a director, painter Julian Schnabel lacks everything except the quality to put arresting photographs up on a screen. His latest, *Before Night Falls*, is epic, rounding up some 30 years in the life of the persecuted homosexual poet Reinaldo Arenas, played by the Spanish film star Javier Bardem. *Before Night Falls*, shot in Mexico for the most part, depends heavily on the lead performance by Bardem. If you don't buy him, there's nothing here to buy. When an actor who looks as good as Bardem—playing a Latin poet, yet—can't bring any inherent sensuality to this part, you can only blame the director. Arenas' male lovers all come across like chums. Schnabel seems to have thought that discretion was better for such matters. However, in the *Midnight Express* sequences, the director goes full throttle, during scenes of the solitary confinement and homoerotic viciousness of the military police. *Before Night Falls* serves as a reminder of Castro's totalitarianism, which we of the left would like to overlook in the interests of calming relations with Cuba. As a guide to Arenas, however, *Before Night Falls* is rambling, loose and superficial. I never had an inkling of what Arenas was really about until one of his poems was read right before the end credits. (RvB)

Best in Show (PG-13; 90 min.) Christopher Guest leads another too-infrequent cinematic parade of fools in *Best in Show*. Guest's latest film is a comedy about the hopefully fictional 125th Mayflower Dog Show in Philadelphia. Guest plays Harlan Pepper, a North Carolinian bringing his purebred bloodhound, Hubert, to the prestigious dog show. Here, five different contestants (who include Catherine O'hara, Eugene Levy and Parker Posey) use their dogs as temporary passports into show business. As usual, Guest presents these deluded souls with affection. When Pepper tries to teach the bloodhound to talk through ventriloquism, Hubert shows too much dignity to register the nuisance. Guest contrasts the wisdom of dogs, all natural performers, with the misguided people who try to force their pets' elegant natural dogness into a human-pleasing spectacle. You have to envy Guest's characters—so painfully aware of the little mistakes in their acts and yet so oblivious to the totality of their act's staggeringly uncanny badness. Free from self-awareness, Guest's people seem like lucky dogs. (RvB)

Cast Away (PG-13; 150 min.) Like Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, the film *Cast Away* puts its hero, Chuck (Tom Hanks), on an island to punish him. His sin is working on Christmas, though one wonders how a FedEx middle manager is supposed to avoid taking shifts during the busiest season? FedEx is practically a sponsor for the movie. The shipping company is so buttered up with product placements that it even permitted the depiction of one of its planes crashing. This disaster in the South Pacific leaves Chuck the only survivor on a beautiful but empty island. Crusoe's island had everything he needed for life; *Cast Away*, more realistic, gives Chuck only coconuts and fish to eat; it's a bloodier tale, too. As a survival narrative, *Cast Away* is only a series of incidents. The craft of this castaway is less important than his pining for love. The story's only force is to get Chuck back to his fiancée. Considering the part, Hunt plays it well enough. In one scene, she reaches for her long lost lover with a gentle familiarity that looks heartfelt, but the sight of Hanks Gumping his part up into numbness at the end leaves you hollow. (RvB)

Chocolat (PG-13; 121 min.) Lasse Hallström's new film is a fable about the power of food and pleasure to overcome a small town's puritanical prudery. Juliette Binoche plays Vianne, a free spirit who wafts into a French village with her young daughter and opens a chocolate shop (during Lent, no less). This act outrages the town's fastidious mayor, who vows to drive her out of business. His pieties are no match for Vianne's confections, though. A cup of her pepper-spiked hot chocolate is enough to awaken the zesty hedonist in her cranky and bitter landlady, while her rose creams spur a broken, abused wife toward blooming emancipation. (MG)

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon (PG-13; 120 min.) Director Ang Lee makes his most radical shift yet—from Civil War-era Missouri in *Ride With the Devil* to Qing dynasty China in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. The good news is that Lee doing martial arts is a lot like Stanley Kubrick doing horror. Just as *The Shining* turned that genre on its ear by devoting substantial time to backstory and character development, Lee's epic treatment—featuring international stars Chow Yun-Fat and Michelle Yeoh—gives the Chinese "Wuxia" drama a decidedly human element. (Wuxia, loosely translated, means "martial arts chivalry." Its heroes share the same quasi-existential path as Old West gunslingers and Japanese Samurai.) *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* maintains the common Wuxia themes of power, romance and mortality and also incorporates its trademark fantasy aspects. Yet the film still bears Lee's undeniable imprint—its richly drawn heroes and heroines are people we can relate to and care about. (NM)

Down to Earth (PG-13; 87 min.) The Emmy-winning writers from the late, lamented Chris Rock Show have a bit of an off day with the Chris Rock vehicle *Down to Earth*, an attempt to please both the PG-13 audience and older fans of his HBO talk show that only ends up sanitizing the best elements of Rock's caustic humor. In this remake of a remake (Warren Beatty's 1978 *Here Comes Mr. Jordan* update, *Heaven Can Wait*), Rock stars as unsuccessful Bed-Stuy stand-up comic Lance Barton, who, because of a mix-up in heaven, dies way before his expected due date and pleads with the head angel (Chazz Palminteri) for a return to Earth and another chance at the mic at the Apollo. The angel agrees to send Lance back, but he has to spend the rest of his life in another man's body. Smitten with a pretty community activist (Regina King) who's protesting the business practices of an old white industrialist, Lance chooses to be placed in the millionaire's body so he can get to know her. As demonstrated in their previous comedy, the amusing but amateurish *American Pie*, directors Chris and Paul Weitz are skilled with sight gags but aren't as adept at shaping a movie around those gags. Though the film is ramshackle, there are clever bits like *Chris Rock Show* fixture Wanda Sykes as a disgruntled maid and Rock's vision of heaven as a crowded club where only hot women seem to be able to get past the velvet ropes. But the extensive scenes of Rock doing his stand-up act make you realize maybe *Down to Earth* should have been made into a concert film instead. (JA)

The Emperor's New Groove (G; 80 min.) The "groove" of the title is the most musical thing about this latest Disney animated feature, and that's definitely a change for the better. Without the usual spate of catchy but forgettable tunes and maudlin ballads weighing it down, *The Emperor's New Groove* has more freedom for some likable comic touches and even a smidgen of character development, which is especially fortunate given the excellent voice casting. David Spade's snide tones are perfect for Kuzco, the self-absorbed emperor of a beautiful South American country who learns about friendship and compassion after Yzma (voiced by Eartha Kitt), a disgruntled courtier, turns him into a llama and steals his throne; he must trust a kindly peasant (voiced by John Goodman) to help him regain his power. The animation has both sharpness and charm that this uncommonly modest Disney effort showcases nicely. (HZ)

The Family Man (PG-13) Nicolas Cage stars as Jack Campbell, the cocky president of a high-powered New York investment company, who chose his career over his college sweetheart, Kate (Téa Leoni), more than a decade ago. On Christmas Eve, a mysterious figure named Cash (Don Cheadle) gives Campbell a "glimpse" of what might have been. Campbell spends the next few months clumsily playing "Daddy" to his two charming kids and bungling his role as a husband in this alternate reality in suburban New Jersey. Disgusted by his subpar clothing, ordinary job and blue-collar friends, Campbell never seems smitten by the life of a family man. The one brief moment he looks comfortable with his new lot is quickly snuffed out and we're returned to the cold wealth of Campbell's New York apartment on Christmas morning. Torn between two lives, Campbell goes in search of Kate. It's almost interesting that the movie allows both characters to fully explore the potential of their chosen careers without matters of the heart interfering (the Kate he didn't marry became a confident career woman who's about to jet off to Paris to head up her company's new office), but it doesn't really work for this particular story. The abrupt ending offers absolutely no closure and there's no real assurance that the business-driven power couple will manage to rekindle their old flame. (SQ)

Hannibal (R; 131 min.) Credited to David Mamet and Steve Zaillian, the script preserves the guts of Thomas Harris' entertaining yet repellent bestseller while cutting back on the travelogue and the novel's homophobia. In this sequel to *The Silence of the Lambs*, FBI special agent Starling (Julianne Moore) is in disgrace with the department, her troubles exacerbated by the sexual insults of a Justice Department liaison played by Ray Liotta. Starling's failure draws the attention of Anthony Hopkins' Dr. Hannibal Lecter, who is disguised as "Dr. Fell" and working cozily as a curator at one of the city of Florence's private galleries. Ridley Scott's best gift as a director is creating cities for the screen. Florence's old city and fire-lit slums make it the perfect lair for Lecter. Is *Hannibal* more than deluxe horror? The answer is no. Though the film is greatly improved over the book, there are still structural problems in all of these locations: antihero and heroine only connecting at the ending; villain and antihero only sharing a scant minute together. This film exists for its gilded shock, and it delivers. (RvB)

The House of Mirth (PG; 123 min.) Director Terence Davies' artful, elegant screen adaptation of Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* is a compelling morality play which offers a big dramatic payoff to those patient enough to appreciate its slow-building narrative and spare aesthetic. In a role which requires that all the acting happens between the lines, *X-Files* veteran Gillian Anderson turns in an impressive and subtle performance as Lily Bart, a woman who is an alien even in her native environment but is too self-consumed to realize it. A vivacious socialite at the top of her game, the beautiful Lily has been cultivated as carefully as any hothouse flower. At 29, however, her exhibition days are over—and she knows it. A woman of independent mind, Lily is sadly lacking in independent means. At the height of the Belle Epoque, within the corset-tight strictures of high society, such misplaced spirit can only complicate life. Marriage is inevitable, she knows. Worse is the knowledge that she will marry for money, not love. Through fine performances and Davies' careful recreation of one woman's claustrophobic existence, *The House of Mirth* is a chilling and effective reminder of a time not so long ago when only men were born with second chances. (NM)

In the Mood for Love (PG; 98 min.) The cult of Wong Kar-wai baffles me, even though I greatly admire his technique. His newest and best, *In the Mood for Love*, is like hiding from the rain for hours at the most chic tropical bar, where everything is frozen in 1962. There are neon colors and humidity and Nat King Cole singing "Green Eyes" in Portuguese in the background. Maggie Cheung Man-Yuk saunters by modeling one of the several dozen silk tropical-print cheong-sam/Suzy Wong dresses she wears in this film. The languid surroundings mesmerize you. Then it comes, that feeling: even in the most comfortable bar, you're eventually stuck by that urgency to get up and go. *In the Mood for Love* tells the story of an adulterous romance between the journalist and yearning fiction writer Mr. Chow (Tony Leung Chiu-wai) and his next-door neighbor, a secretary named Mrs. Chan (Cheung). Both live in a cramped apartment house. Both are glumly overworked; their lives take place in their offices, or in a depopulated stage-set Hong Kong. It's clear that Mrs. Chan and Mr. Chow are the only man and woman in the world for each other, held apart by the vows of marriage and by fear for their reputations. *In the Mood for Love* stresses the contrast of hard work with romantic rhapsody—work, and not death, is the opposite of love. Avoiding the cheapness of old romantic movies, Kar-wai took the other path. As an art movie, it's all art and no movie. (RvB)

Malena (R; 121 min.) It's easy to understand why Giuseppe Tornatore is the last man standing in the Italian film industry; his films have the American pace, the cartoonishness and the coarseness to survive in today's market. The director of the hit *Cinema Paradiso* even has an American producer (Harvey Weinstein), and he is a Spielbergian movie geek who can toss off quick visual references. His newest film, *Malena*, lasts around 90 minutes, and gives a U.S. audience what it wants: postcardy views of Siracusa (ancient Syracuse), an Italian babe in a sheer, clinging dress and a group of frenzied foreigners whapping each other around like the Three Stooges. In Sicily during the war, Malena (Monica Bellucci) is as much a cause for talk as the North African campaign. She's a too-pretty soldier's wife left alone and unescorted. It's not just that she has "the finest ass in Sicily," as one kid says; she seems to be the only woman on the island who isn't a mother of five. When her husband is reported dead, hard times hit Malena; she's denounced as a whore and ends up becoming one to survive. I knew about the fate of collaborationist prostitutes from *Hiroshima, Mon Amour*, so it was no surprise that Tornatore took his heroine to that lowly state. However, if this punishment scene repels you straight out of the theater, you'll miss an actual point to *Malena* in the coda. It's a moral from an old saying, "You can only find your dignity in the place where you lost it." *Malena* reminds us of how a traditional, island-bound society gets along by a superficial show of forgetting. (RvB)

Meet the Parents (PG-13; 108 min.) Half of *Meet the Parents* works well enough to

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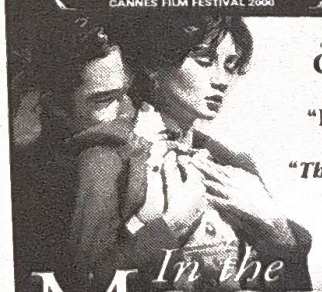

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FILM REVIEW

Limited partnership

The Ullmann-helmed, Bergman-penned 'Faithless' offers more scenes from a marriage

THE WORD "FAITHLESS" is a loaded, melodramatic term to describe an infidelity. The truth is that some marriages beg to die. In the Swedish import *Faithless*, the word is justified. The film, directed by Liv Ullmann, recounts a love triangle that ends in the wrecking of a marriage. The wreckage starts with a tryst, which turns into a compulsive affair, and leads to a scene of discovery. By the time the marriage is over, there is no hope, no faith left.

The story is heard by an elderly, solitary writer living like a monk by the seaside, "Bergman" (Erland Josephson)—*Faithless*' script was written by the Swedish master Ingmar Bergman. We know "Bergman" is a screenwriter because of a projector in the room; when the woman comes to visit him, she stands opposite the machine as if she were part of a movie in "Bergman's" imagination. We began to suspect that this old man may be not just a writer, but the self-exiled survivor of the story he hears told.

Wife Story: While her husband's away, Marianne (Lena Endre) finds herself getting a little too friendly with family friend David (Krister Henriksson).

And the story is told by Marianne (Lena Endre), a wife and mother in her late thirties, whose beauty is aging, blurring into handsomeness. Her husband Markus (Thomas Hanzon) is an orchestra conductor who goes to Los Angeles for work, leaving wife and daughter behind. While he's gone Marianne and old friend of the family David (Krister Henriksson) have dinner. David makes a clumsy pass over drinks; despite this incident, they make a decision to sleep sexless together "as if we were an old married couple." From looking at David, you can see it's not physical magnetism that attracted Marianne to him. She has some need for chaos in her life. David, a mercurial, bitter man, delivers plenty of it.

It's a cold, clear story, and Endre's performance carries the film. The last third of *Faithless* seems slow and repetitive; that familiar Scandinavian movie claustrophobia starts to creep into the theater. Endre's sturdy, pale, smooth face starts to fade into the blonde wood of the Swedish-modern cell behind her. Confession is good for the soul, but it's better for the soul of the person confessing than the one listening, and after the second hour elapsed, I began to understand why psychiatrists are so well paid. And as Bergman, Erland Josephson isn't memorable; seeing him, you have to mourn for the thought of what Ingmar Bergman's previous alter-ego Max Von Sydow would have done with the part. In the way the last painful acts of the tragedy pile together, you see that carelessness in the home stretch that bedevils any writer, especially the elder ones.

Even in the shape it's in, Faithless represents a lost cinematic era in which films analyzed, with unsparing rigor, the strains facing a marriage. The movie is a reminder of the kind of cinema that's been dead since . . . .well, since Ingmar Bergman retired. Long and uneven, it's still an unsettling vision of the torment that only the married can inflict upon one another.

Richard von Busack

Faithless (R; 142 min.), directed by Liv Ullmann, written by Ingmar Bergman, photographed by Jörgen Persson and starring Lena Endre, Erland Josephson, Krister Henriksson and Thomas Hanzon opens Friday at the Towne Theatre in San Jose.

bypass the memory of the very recent, very similar *Analyze This*. Again, Robert De Niro plays an intimidating father-in-law to be. His daughter Debbie (Nicole DeHuff) arrives at their expensive Long Island home with her boyfriend, Greg Focker (Ben Stiller), who has the deluded notion that it would be best to propose to Debbie while she's visiting her parents. This bad idea is worsened because Debbie's father is a career CIA interrogator who is terribly overprotective of his daughter. The best scenes are the least broad ones, the ones that could be carried out on a small set or stage. But as Focker's mishaps get bigger and splashier, they're a lot less interesting. Director Jay Roach is the kind of director who all but gives you the blueprints of an object before he destroys it with slapstick, and since his timing isn't much, it's mostly the tensions of this wealthy, proper family dealing with this strange urban interloper that make this comedy work. When these tensions are abandoned in favor of ever more obvious mishaps, the film stops tickling your funny bone and starts abrading your nerves. (RvB)

Miss Congeniality (PG-13; 110 min.) An FBI agent goes undercover to find a maniac who is threatening the Miss USA contest. Star and producer Sandra Bullock is a type the movies don't give us, ever since Barbra Streisand became a monument: a bratty, quick, self-deprecating New York girl with a sharp sense of humor. But this sloppy comedy (directed by Daniel Petrie) is aimless. Bullock grossly overdoes frumpiness; she's as lost and as irritating as any other sleek light comedian plunged into slapstick. No relief from Benjamin Bratt as the male love interest; Bratt's apparent conviction that he is an Aztec God gets mighty wearisome (Antonio Banderas could have shown him how to play this kind of part—machismo blowing a gasket.) However, Michael Caine, as a beauty contest consultant, has the best lines—watching Bullock galumph down the street, he grumbles "I haven't seen a walk like that since *Jurassic Park*." (RvB)

Monkeybone (PG-13; 82 min.) Stu Miley (Brendan Fraser) is the creator of cartoons about how hard puberty hit him. His new strange impulses are represented by his animated libido, a fez-wearing monkey character named Monkeybone. As the film begins, the Monkeybone show has become a hit on Cartoon Central, and Stu's manager (David Foley) is eager to franchise the hell out of the monkey, much to Stu's fears. When Stu is knocked into a coma by an accident, he enters a nightmare land called Downtown. It's a skid row of the unconscious, where he's stuck for months with his evil little monkey sidekick, now as real as he is. *Monkeybone* was directed by Henry Selick, who directed *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. He formerly collaborated with Tim Burton on that film, and the narrative in *Monkeybone* makes Tim Burton seem like a master of cause-and-effect storytelling. Even for a cartoon, it's illogical. As a cartoon character, Monkeybone isn't amusing. He always gets his way, and there's nothing he pushes against that gets to push back. The comedy really starts in the middle of the film when Fraser returns to earth, possessed by the unclean monkey. Fraser may not be a critic's darling, but he is a winning, good-looking slapstick comedian in prime physical shape. He's at his best as the host for a monkey libido demon ready to pollute the world with Monkeybone merchandise. (RvB)

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (PG-13; 106 min.) You may have seen a lot of uneven movies carried by the soundtrack, but *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* surpasses them all. It's a rocky, episodic film rarely deeper than a hillbilly caricature. And yet it's a hard movie not to like. The hero, Everett Ulysses McGill (George Clooney), is a con artist with a huge vocabulary. He and two fellow escapees (John Turturro and Tim Blake Nelson) form a chain gang, encounter sirens and a one-eyed brute, the Polyphemus character (played by John Goodman) who turns out to be an actual Cyclops—an official in the Klan. *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* is practically a musical. The soundtrack music is as important to the essence of the film as Cab Calloway used to be to the spirit of a Betty Boop cartoon. Because of the music, you get the impression of good ideas jingling around in this film like a pocketful of change. (RvB)

The Pledge (R; 124 min.) Leaden, bottomlessly pretentious yarn about a retired cop (Jack Nicholson) whose sacred promise to a murdered girl's mother costs him everything. A scant six hours left on the job and about-to-retire Reno police detective Nicholson investigates the case of a slaughtered little girl. He swears to find the killer, even though the clumsy local cops are satisfied with the capture of a usual suspect (played by ex-*Usual Suspect* Benicio del Toro with an unfortunate Rowan Atkinson accent). Heading off into the mountains, the detective appears to be in retirement but is actually laying out a trap to catch the killer. Sean Penn's self-conscious direction, which racks this plot like salt-water taffy, wanders to the implausible, would-be existential punch line. Except in the scene where Nicholson makes his unholy vow, his acting is glazed and tired. (RvB)

Pollock (R; 122 min.) Ed Harris' self-directed portrayal of the artist Jackson Pollock is just as splashy with emotion as Pollock was with paint. Harris' neurotic virility—a stag caught in the headlights—is matched with Marcia Gay Harden's fascinating, surly impersonation of his wife Lee Krasner (even if the real Krasner looked a lot more like Chico Marx). Much of the film takes place in intervals, waiting for Mt. Pollock to blow up, though the painting scenes are Harris at his best. Ultimately, there's too much calculation. We see Harris' Pollock lighting a cigarette in the time it would take most people to go out for a pack of smokes. The actor Harris feels so much sympathy for Pollock's silences that, as a director, he never goes up against them. In the interests of machismo, Harris left out one very strong reason for Pollock's incredible booze consumption and self-hatred—his trysts with men, well-reported in this film's source, *Jackson Pollock: An American Life*. Here was the opportunity to show a different kind of torment: the story of how a macho artist, married, Schlitz-drinking, felt like he wasn't really straight and couldn't stand it. As a director Harris backed off from the most unusual part of the story. As a result, his often striking and entertaining movie is a lock without a key.(RvB)

Quills (R; 123 min.) The Marquis de Sade, hero of the new film *Quills*, served 30 years of his life in various dungeons for misdemeanors. In jail, he composed an enormous, rambling body of written work. De Sade's writings are a chaotic fantasy of sexual egalitarianism, an inverted version of utopian fantasy. In this stunning comeback movie by Philip Kaufman (*The Unbearable Lightness of Being*), Geoffrey Rush plays de Sade during his confinement at the asylum at Charenton in the early 1800s. De Sade, naturally a handful, is under the care of a good, liberal, work-within-the-system-type abbé (Joaquin Phoenix). He's also tended by a coy but hardheaded laundress (Kate Winslet, never riper and more inviting). Summoned by the scandalous success of de Sade's print enormities, a new director arrives at the asylum, Dr. Royer-Collard, played by Michael Caine. The second half of the film is a war of wills between the doctor and his prisoner, which takes a turn into mad punishment. When the script, based on Doug Wright's play, departs from history into symbolism, the film falters. Rush, in his best performance yet, makes the Marquis too grand a figure to be ground down by symbolic (and utterly fictional) violence. He evokes the humor and hyperbolic qualities of this influential, dreaded writer. (RvB)

Recess: School's Out (G; 83 min.) A feature film based on Disney's Saturday morning cartoon series. Over summer vacation, T.J. Detweiler and his friends uncover a plot being hatched at their school involving a secret laser weapon. With the voices of Andy Lawrence, Dabney Coleman, Robert Goulet and James Woods.

Save the Last Dance (PG-13; 113 min.) Julia Stiles and Sean Patrick Thomas' hip-thrust life into MTV Film's tale of coming-of-age woes. Stiles, in her best performance since playing the teen shrew in *10 Things I*

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

Hate About You, stars as Sara, a once-aspiring ballerina who hangs up her toe shoes following the death of her mother. That is, until she moves to Chicago's inner city and finds new inspiration through her relationship with handsome hip-hop hipster Derek (Thomas, formerly of *Cruel Intentions* fame). Eye-rolling cynics have pigeon-holed the film as only suited for 12-year-old girls, but those willing to look past a thin plot and stereotypical characters will find a sweet story carried by an undeniable chemistry between the two stars, both on and off the dance floor. (MS)

Saving Silverman (R; 91 min.) Often amusing slobbo comedy in the Farrelly Brothers realm, livened up by Jack Black (the cranky record connoisseur in *High Fidelity*) and the always reliable Steve Zahn. The two play Seattle boobs who lose their best pal (Jason Biggs) to a conniving psychiatrist—played by Amanda Peet, who, unlike a lot of good-lookers, really seems eager to act. A kidnapping plot follows—as in *Ransom of Red Chief*, you fear for the kidnappers, not the kidnapped. Biggs, nice enough, is like Zeppo Marx in the company of Zahn and Black. It's well known that Zahn's an ace portrayer of mealy-mouthed stoners, but Black makes seen to have undiluted Belushiness in a way not seen since the real John Belushi checked out. Also starring R. Lee Ermey, the fierce drill sergeant from *Full Metal Jacket*, who has a final scene that must have taken more bravery than even the USMC requires. (RvB)

Shadow of the Vampire (R; 91 min.) Bram Stoker's Count Dracula got his first screen incarnation in F.W. Murnau's *Nosferatu* (1922). The making of *Nosferatu*—quick, low-tech, cheap and illegal—is reimagined in E. Elias Merhige's *Shadow of the Vampire*. The film is based on an inspired idea: what if the actor Max Schreck (Willem Dafoe) was actually a vampire recruited by Murnau (John Malkovich)? Schreck is not a familiar figure, so Dafoe doesn't have any memories to displace. Dafoe's vampire is an asthmatic rat, sick and old. Like the very, very old often are, he's amused by his being the last around to survive, but there are surprises in him still. In *Nosferatu*, the vampire hunter Van Helsing is almost a walk-on; it's the good wife Nina (Greta Schroeder) who sacrifices herself to overcome the monster. In *Shadow of the Vampire*, Greta is played by Catherine McCormack as a silly, swanning actress sacrificed to Murnau's vision. (RvB)

Snatch (R; 104 min.) In a whirling tall tale of a heist film, a group of Cockney maniacs contend for an 86-carat diamond. Guy Ritchie has learned a lot about digital photography and editing. With his flash-story-telling, a kind of cinematic hypertext, Ritchie can load up the histories and misdeeds of what seems like a whole city of criminals. At first, the twin plots don't seem linked. The other subject is illegal bare-knuckle boxing, controlled by a murderous promoter called Brick Top (Alan Ford). Something as valuable and unlucky as the stolen diamond enters the world of these boxing matches. That something is a new fighter, Mickey O'Neill (Brad Pitt). *Snatch* seems neither to have beginning or end but an urgent "now" throughout. Here's the delightful experience of watching a movie in which all cylinders are firing. (RvB)

Sweet November (PG-13; 114 min.) The one and only Keanu Reeves plays Nelson, a hyped-up ad executive who loses his job. Fortunately, a perky, childish dog groomer named Sara Deever (Charlize Theron) is there with a free offer, which she presses with repellent insistence. If Nelson turns himself over to her utterly for a makeover, she'll save him from the soulless life he's living. She'll be totally honest and give herself freely—of course, she won't mention that she's suffering from Hollywood Movie Disease. Thank God for one scene of Frank Langella introducing a taste of real world ruthlessness and discernment into this nigh-fatal dose of wheelchair kitsch. (RvB)

Traffic (R; 147 min.) Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic* shuttles among three different stories. In one section, Manolo (Jacob Vargas) and Javier (Benicio Del Toro) are Tijuana police officers recruited by a hearty old general (Tomas Milian), who is jockeying for a place as Mexico's head drug warrior. In section two, American DEA cops Montell (Don Cheadle) and Ray (Luis Guzman) are trying to nail some U.S. distributors of Mexican dope. Thus they entrap a middleweight dealer named Eduardo (Miguel Ferrer). The plan is to squeeze Eduardo into turning against his boss Carlos Alaya (Steven Bauer). Later, the two officers stake out the boss's wife, Helena (Catherine Zeta-Jones). In the third section, Robert Wakefield (Michael Douglas), an Ohio Supreme Court justice, has been tapped as the new drug czar appointee. *Traffic* shows the disconnection between the drug policy makers and the drug fanciers, each unable to understand each other. (RvB)

Unbreakable (PG-13; 106 min.) Only a year after the phenomenal success of director M. Night Shyamalan's *The Sixth Sense*, comes his slumping sophomore picture. Shyamalan continues making mysteries out of mood, shadows and supernatural possibilities, but there's nothing left to hook the imagination. (RvB)

Vertical Limit (PG-13; 126 min.) In the opening of *Vertical Limit*, Peter (Chris O'Donnell), his father and his sister, Annie (Robin Tunney), are rock climbing in Monument Valley. A piton drops out of the rock and the father begs to be cut loose to save the lives of his children. This cornball primal scene kills the movie. We know right away that here is one family that's not going to lose any more members to mountain climbing accidents. Years after the accident, Annie and Peter are reunited by chance in the Himalayas, at the base camp of evil Texas billionaire Elliot Vaughn (Bill Paxton) who is trying to climb the mountain K-2. A scene of pre-hike revelry is interrupted by a bearded old man of the mountain named Montgomery Wick (Scott Glenn). He prophecies peril to come. Ignoring him, off to the peak goes our villain, accompanied by a sacrificial character, and Annie, who is Vaughn's personal assistant. All three are promptly swallowed by a crevasse. Peter raises a rescue team to save his sister, accompanied on the ascent by the prickly Wick. It was a cinematic mistake to spend so much time with the stranded hikers, because *Vertical Limit* gets stuck in a cave like a sick marmot. The digi-cheesy snow special effects befit a movie that's cheapjack no matter how much money it cost; *Vertical Limit* is a film which, in the old expression, stinks on ice. (RvB)

The Wedding Planner (PG-13) The setting is San Francisco as a fantasyland of peace and affluence. The City's top wedding planner (Jennifer Lopez) is attracted to the groom in her latest assignment, and the feeling is mutual. He's a sexless pediatrician, played by the vinyl-skinned Matthew McConaughey. Director Adam Shankman, a longtime choreographer, makes his directing debut. So the best sequences are the dances: both an argument-tango and a waltz in Golden Gate Park at an alfresco cinema (*Two Tickets to Broadway*, 1951, Tony Martin, Janet Leigh.) Shankman's trying to remember the way the old romantic movies worked, but he's forgotten so much—the old ones were brief, they had rhythm, they had reliable clowns. For half of the movie, one does root for Mary to land McConaughey, not because he's desirable; but because a woman as ravishing as Lopez ought to have her way. But graceful as Lopez is, her new film moves as slow as San Francisco traffic. (RvB)

What Women Want (PG-13; 126 min.) The first half hour is agreeable sweet fluff of the school of late 1950s Rock Hudson, leading to a pleasant evening with our Chicago ad exec hero Nick Marshall. Marshall (Mel Gibson) is revealed as a man at ease with himself, mostly because he doesn't take women's opinions seriously. Soon, because of an electrical accident, he gains the telepathic powers to read women's thoughts. He's advised by a psychiatrist (Bette Midler, in a cameo) to use the power for his own good. So Nick matches wits with a supposed bitch of a rival ad executive: Darcy Maguire (Helen Hunt). You've seen Gibson putting on nail polish and panty hose in the trailers, but this is just a gag. The number of times Nick hears the thought "nice ass" shows this so-called woman's movie to be just one of the guys. The product placement comes thick and fast, particularly a Nike commercial dreamed up by Nick. The film shows the signs of being designed by committee, particularly in a hopeless ending that frays into three different directions, leaving our hero humbled and uninteresting, shining with that castrated aura of the male hero of an old-time sitcom. (RvB)

Yi Yi (Unrated; 173 min.) The title of Edward Yang's new movie is translated as "A One and a Two"—a musician setting the cadence for a song. So much of what we hear in *Yi Yi* is the music in life that never begins—and always seems ready to start. Yang's film follows the unhappy Jing family, troubled

Continued on page 74

FILM REVIEW

El Stereotypico

Overblown and sugared, 'The Mexican' squanders its cast

Merrick Morton

Acting Lessons: It's hard to tell who's coaching whom as Brad Pitt gets up close and personal with a junkyard dog in 'The Mexican.'

IN THE MOVIES, Mexico often serves as a testing ground, a place where the gringo can hazard his manhood in a dangerous country against wily, ruthless unwashed gibbering sadists—a land where even God's good water can't be trusted. *The Mexican* spares us not one of these stereotypes.

Directed by Gore Verbinski (auteur of *Mouse Hunt*) in the northern deserts, the film tells the story of a pistol called "The Mexican" that falls in and out of the hands of inept petty hood Jerry (Brad Pitt). Since he owes a favor to a crime boss (Bob Balaban, miscast), Jerry must go to a small town south of the border to pick up the gun. Unfortunately, he foolishly leaves the pistol in his car, which is promptly stolen, etc., etc. Meanwhile, Jerry's angry girlfriend, Samantha (Julia Roberts), whose mind is a mulch of pop-psychology advice books about Men Who Can't Love, has left him to go to live in Las Vegas. Since it's thought that Jerry ran off with the pistol, the crime boss sends a thuggish kidnapper named Leroy (James Gandolfini, better known as crime boss Tony Soprano on HBO) after Samantha.

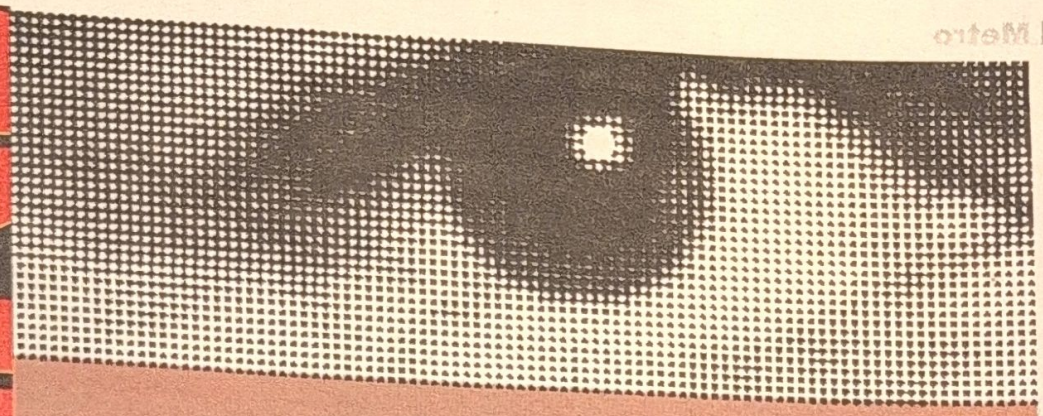
The script is by actor J.H. Wyman, who wrote and directed a previous movie titled *Pale Saints*, which has the same elements of people captive in car trunks, vague poetic dreams of relocating to some place sunny and magic, and small-time hoods with sunglasses. The point of this new potboiler is that lovers have to be put in peril to realize the importance of commitment. There's something especially irritating about films that try to overcome their cheap-jack fatalism with equally cheap romance. Even Gandolfini can't really sell a speech in which he says he's learned the importance of love from the people he's had to whack along the way. The way Verbinski lingers over the scenes, he thinks he's found another dimension in Gandolfini. Not hardly—this major actor has been exploring the soulful side of a parasitic killer in one brilliant episode after another of *The Sopranos*.

Pitt and Roberts have never been able to transcend poor direction, and here they have Gore Verbinski. The impression *The Mexican* leaves is of one scene at the end where the two leads are sitting side by side on a couch in a hotel lobby, waiting for a phone call—oh, those undependable Mexican phones. The question is whether Pitt and Roberts have reached the level of stardom where even watching them sitting doing nothing is fascinating. As in *Hannibal*, the stars don't connect until the last half hour; and there's too much connivance to keep them apart as Pitt negotiates the bad Mexican hombres, bad Mexican roads, bad Mexican junkyard dogs and all the other bad jokes of one botch of a film.

Richard von Busack

The Mexican (R; 123 min.), directed by Gore Verbinski, written by J.H. Wyman, photographed by Dariusz Wolski and starring Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts, opens Friday valleywide.

CINEQUEST



HOT PIX

The CINEQUEST FILM FESTIVAL is 10 days of film and fun, food and features. That's quite a mouthful for some. So here's a sampler of what's getting the buzz.

FROM NANOOK TO TODAY Legendary filmmaker Richard Leacock takes us on an entertaining journey of the history of direct cinema. (Friday, March 2nd, 5:15pm, Camera 3, $15)

A CONVERSATION WITH SPIKE LEE Enjoy an evening with Spike Lee as he recounts his career and his path to Maverick filmmaking. (Friday, March 2nd, 7:00 pm, Fairmont Hotel, $25)

CUTTING EDGE DEVELOPMENTS: Script to Screen Explore the frontiers of digital film making and film viewing. (Saturday, March 2nd, 10:30am, Camera One, $20).

THE DIGITAL HIERARCHY — From DV to 24P Join filmmakers and digital innovators for a mind boggling look at state-of-the art cinema. (Sat., March 2nd, 1:30pm, Camera 3, $20).

THE COLLABORATIVE ART Join Maverick Spirit Award Winner Ron Shelton (Bull Durham), Lolital Davidovich and members of Shelton's team for an insiders look at the creative process. (Mar. 4, 12:30pm, Camera 3, $15)

HAVE THINGS CHANGED? Angela Davis moderates a provocative panel, including Doug E. Doug (Cosby) for a look at the portrayal of blacks in the media. (Sun., March 4, 3:30pm, Camera 3)

CLOSING NITE GALA Enjoy the Cannes Critic's Prize Winner and Academy Award Nominee Amores Peros. Afterwards, celebrate the best Cinequest yet at A.P. Stump's. (Sun., March 3rd, 6pm, Camera 3 & Camera One, $35)

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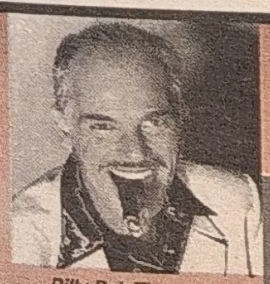
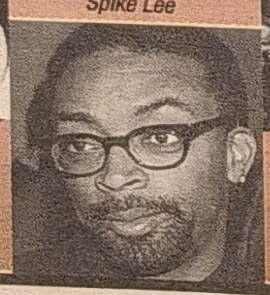
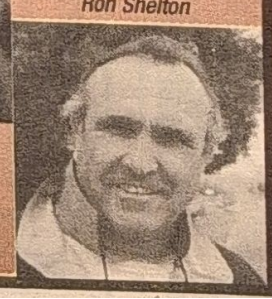


Billy Bob Thornton



Spike Lee

Richard Leacock



Ron Shelton

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR OR BY CALLING
408-295-FEST
www.cinequest.org
or TicketMaster: 707-528-TIXS, www.ticketmaster.com
CINEQUEST FILM FESTIVAL
FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 4, 2001

Continued from page 72

with the crisis of their beloved grandmother in a coma. As background to this rich film is the emotional atmosphere of the collapse of the Asian financial bubble, mirrored in the cynical wheeling and dealings of the father's company. While portraying a family in stress, Yang makes a plea for movies that aren't escapist. (RvB)

You Can Count on Me (R; 109 min.) On the surface, *You Can Count on Me* is the typical dreaded Sundance movie, about family togetherness in a small town in upstate New York. It's only when the film starts to unfold that you see differently. Sammy, the heroine (Laura Linney) doesn't mesh in sitcom timing with her shy, chubby, fatherless son Rudy (Rory Culkin, Macaulay's brother.) Like real mothers and sons, they talk at slightly crossed purposes. And Sammy's job isn't livened up by a lot of colorful characters. You know how it is in small-town movies, that the characters work at *the* bank? Sammy works at *a* bank. As a regular churchgoer, Sammy values her uneventful life, but she's about to get a shake-up from the arrival of her only other living relative besides Rudy, her drifting brother Terry (Mark Ruffalo). The friction between them is increased by her problems at the office with her new boss, a petty, inept martinet beautifully played by Matthew Broderick. *You Can Count On Me* is especially a small delight, in that no one here gets the last word. The four main characters recognize flaws in each other, but the flaws are left intact. In a weak moment, director writer Kenneth Lonergan wrote the screenplay for *The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle*, a film that may not have worked because the man wasn't slick enough. Here he's luckier. *You Can Count On Me* is a mature, lovable and touching work. (RvB)

Show Times

Movie listings are for **Friday, March 2, through Thursday, March 8** unless otherwise indicated. Programs and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Updated showtimes are available online at Metroactive, http://metroactive.com.

CAMPBELL

Plaza
2501 Winchester Blvd (408.378.2425)
The Pledge—9.
Sweet November—1:30, 5:45, 10:10.
Miss Congeniality—3:40, 8.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—2:30, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10 plus Fri-Sun noon.
What Women Want—1, 4:15, 7:10, 9:30.
Recess: School's Out—1, 3, 5, 7.

CUPERTINO

Oaks Cupertino
21275 Stevens Creek Blvd (408.446.0472)
http://www.movie-tickets.com
Best in Show—1:40, 3:35, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.
What Women Want—1:45, 4:15, 7:10, 9:45.
Save the Last Dance—1:50, 4:10 (except Sun), 7:15, 9:40 (except Sun).
102 Dalmatians—1:35, 4:15.
Vertical Limit—7:05, 9:40.
The Emperor's New Groove—1:35, 3:20, 5:15.
All the Pretty Horses—7 (except Sun), 9:30.

FREMONT

Cinedome 8 East
Mowry/I-880 (510.790.0866)
See Spot Run—12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7, 9:15.
Down to Earth—11:45, 1:45, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—11:50, 2:25, 5:05, 7:35, 10:10.
Monkeybone—2:40, 9:45.
Cast Away—12:20, 3:45, 7:05, 10:05.
Sweet November—11:55, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:55.
The Wedding Planner—noon, 2:35, 5, 7:30, 10.
Save the Last Dance—12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15.
Miss Congeniality—12:05, 4:55, 7:25.

Naz Cinema
39400 Argonaut Ave (510.797.2000)
www.naz8.com
Piriyatha Varam Vendum—Fri-Sun 7, 9 plus Fri-Sat 11pm, plus Sat-Sun 1, 3, 5; Mon-Thu 8.
Zubeidaa—Fri-Sun 5, 9 plus Sat-Sun 1; Mon-Thu 4, 8.
Kasoor—Fri-Sun 5, 9 plus Sat-Sun 1; Mon-Thu 4, 8
Aashiq—Fri-Sun 5, 9 plus Sat-Sun 1; Mon-Thu 4, 8.
Kuch Khatti Kuch Meethi—Fri-Sun 5, 9 plus Sat-Sun 1; Mon-Thu 4, 8.
Mohabbatein—Fri 5; Sat 1; Sun 9; Mon-Thu 7.
Mission Kashmir—Mon-Thu 8.
Pyar Kiya To Darna Kya—Fri-Sun 5 plus Sat 1, plus Sun 9; Mon-Thu 8.
Kannada Movie Mathadaana—Fri 9:30; Sat 8:30; Sun 1:30.
Antha Mana Mancike—Fri-Sat 9; Sat-Sun 5; plus Sun 1.

GILROY

Platinum 7
6851 Monterey St (408.846.6789)
See Spot Run—5:15, 7:20, 9:25 plus 11, 1:05, 3:10.
The Mexican—4:15, 6:50, 9:30 plus Fri-Sun 11:05, 1:40.
Hannibal—4:20, 6:55, 9:35 plus Fri-Sun 11:10, 1:45.
Down to Earth—5:20, 7:15, 9:15 plus Fri-Sun 11:15, 1:15, 3:15.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—4:35, 7:10, 9:45 plus Fri-Sun 11:20, 1:55.
Recess: School's Out—5:30, 7:30 plus Fri-Sun 11:30, 1:30, 3:30.
Sweet November—9:20.
Chocolat—4:30, 7, 9:40 plus Fri-Sun 11:25, 2.

HOLLISTER

Premiere Cinema
581A McCray St (409.638.1800)
www.premiere6hollister.com
The Mexican—Fri-Sun 2, 4:30, 7, 9:40 plus Sat-Sun 11:30am; Mon-Thu 3:30, 6:30, 9.
See Spot Run—Fri-Sun 3, 5:10, 7:20, 9:25 plus Sat-Sun 12:45pm; Mon-Thu 4:15, 6:40, 8:55.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—Fri-Sun 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45 plus Sat-Sun 11:15am; Mon-Thu 3:20, 6:20, 8:45.
Down to Earth—Fri-Sun 2:30, 4:40, 7:15, 9:20 plus Sat-Sun 12:20pm; Mon-Thu 3:10, 5:10, 7:15, 9:15.
Recess: School's Out—Fri-Sun 1, 3, 5, 6:50 plus Sat-Sun 11:10am; Mon-Thu 3, 5, 6:50.
Hannibal—Fri-Sun 3:40, 6:45, 9:30 plus Sat-Sun 12:30pm; Mon-Thu 4, 8.
Traffic—Fri-Sun 9; Mon-Thu 8:45.

LOS GATOS

Los Gatos Cinema
41 N. Santa Cruz Ave. (408.395.0203)
Pollock—Fri-Sun 4:20, 7, 9:30 plus Sat-Sun 1:30; Mon-Thu 4:35, 7, 9:20.
Malena—Fri-Thu 7:10 plus Fri 9:15, plus Sat-Sun 12:20, 2:10, 9:10; Mon-Thu 5:05, 7:10, 9:05.
Quills—Fri-Sun 4:15.

MENLO PARK

Guild
949 El Camino Real (650.32MOVIE)
Pollock—7, 9:45 plus Sat-Sun 1:30, 4:15.

Park
1275 El Camino Real (650.32MOVIE)
O Brother, Where Art Thou?—7, 9:30 plus Sat-Sun 2, 4:30.
The Rocky Horror Picture Show—Sat midnight.

MILPITAS

Century 20 Great Mall
1010 Great Mall Dr (408.942.5550)
The Mexican—11:30, 12:40, 1:40, 2:20, 7, 7:40, 8:40, 9:40, 10:20 plus Fri, Mon-Thu 2:45, 4:15, 4:55, plus Sat-Sun 3:20, 4:20, 5, 6.
See Spot Run—11:45, 12:30, 2, 2:45, 4:15, 4:55, 7:05, 7:45, 9:15, 10.
Hannibal—1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:30.
Down to Earth—12:05 (except Fri), 1:05, 2:20 (except Fri), 3:20, 4:40, 5:40, 7, 8, 9:20, 10:20.
Recess: School's Out—1, 3, 5, 7:10.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—11:35, 1, 2:15, 3:50, 5:05, 7:15, 7:50, 10, 10:30.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—11:55, 2:25, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25.
Traffic—1:10, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10.
Chocolat—11:50, 2:30, 5:20, 8, 10:35.
Monkeybone—11:30, 1:50, 4, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30.
Sweet November—12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10:15.
The Wedding Planner—12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:45, 10:10.
Cast Away—1:05, 4:10, 7:15, 10:25.
O Brother, Where Art Thou?—noon, 2:25, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30.
What Women Want—11:35, 2:15, 5:10, 7:35, 10:35.

MORGAN HILL

Cinema 6
750 Tennant Station Way (408.779.1051)
Schedule not available at deadline; call theater for movies and showtimes.

Granada
17440 Monterey Rd (408.779.1506)
Schedule not available at deadline; call theater for movies and showtimes.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Century Cinema 16
Shoreline Drive at Highway 101 (650.960.0959)
The Mexican—11:15, 12:45, 2, 3:45, 4:45, 7, 7:45, 9:50, 10:30.
See Spot Run—11:25, 12:25, 1:45, 2:50, 4:25, 5:15, 7:05, 9:25.
Hannibal—1:30, 4:30, 7:25, 9:20, 10:25.
Down to Earth—11:20, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 8, 10:15.
Recess: School's Out—noon, 2:20, 4:35, 7.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:50, 10:35.
Traffic—12:10, 3:20, 6:55, 10.
Monkeybone—7:30, 9:55.
Sweet November—11:40, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:20.
The Wedding Planner—12:40, 2:55, 5:20, 7:55, 10:25.
Cast Away—12:35, 3:55, 7:10, 10:10.
Shadow of the Vampire—11:45, 1:50, 9:40.
Finding Forrester—4, 6:50.
You Can Count on Me—12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:40, 10:05.
In the Mood for Love—12:15, 2:45, 5:10, 7:20, 9:35.
Snatch—11:50, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:45.

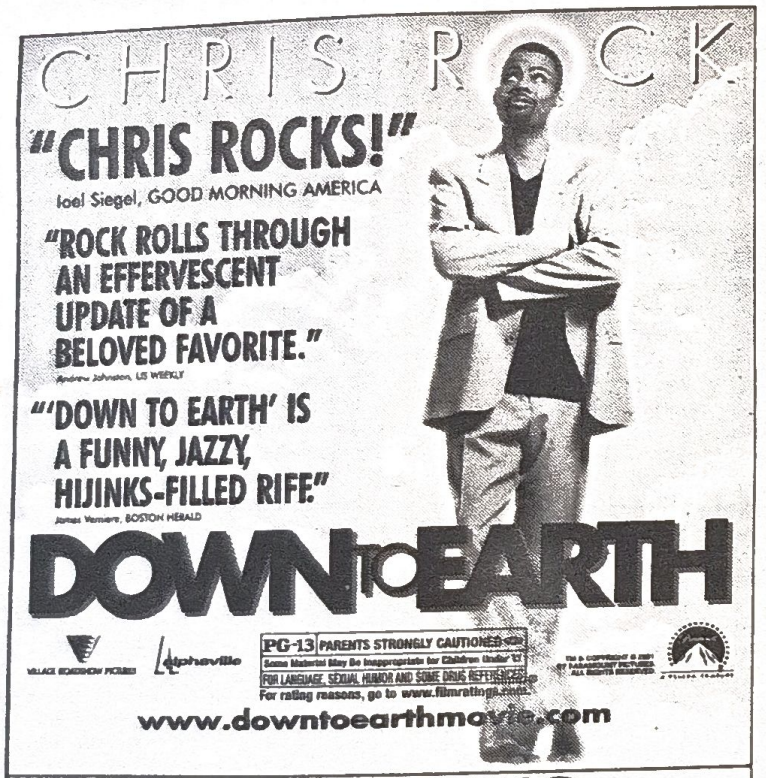
NEWARK

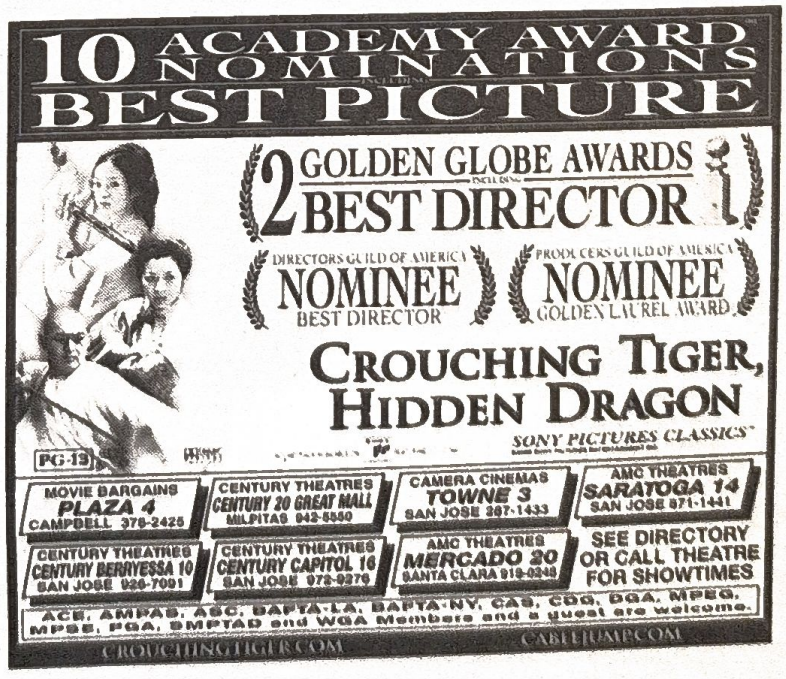
Cinedome Newark 7
6006 Newpark Mall (510.796.8000)
The Mexican—noon, 1:30 (except Thu), 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30, 9, 10:30.
Hannibal—12:10, 3:05, 6:05, 9:05, 10:10.
Recess: School's Out—12:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:40.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25.
Chocolat—1, 4, 6:55, 9:45.
Traffic—12:25, 3:25, 7, 9:55.

PALO ALTO

Aquarius
430 Emerson St (650.32MOVIE)
The House of Mirth—6:30, 9:30 plus Sat-Sun 12:30, 3:30.
Before Night Falls—7:15; 10 plus Sat-Sun 1:15, 4:15.

Palo Alto Square
3000 El Camino Real (650.32MOVIE)
Chocolat—7, 9:30 plus Sat-Sun 1:15, 4.





FILM REVIEW

Bad Gamble

'3,000 Miles to Graceland' offers a weak impersonation of a Vegas heist movie

THE PREVIEWS promise a Vegas kind of movie: *3,000 Miles to Graceland* is more like Laughlin. It's a heist picture done from a script that's a sixth generation Xerox of a Tarantino premise. In Las Vegas, a gang disguised as Elvis impersonators robs the Riviera Casino, planning to take the money to a launderer in Idaho. (Do casinos mark their bills?) Eventually, the gang is double-crossed, and the money is fought over for by the good-bad Michael (Kurt Russell) and his former cell mate, the bad-bad Murphy (Kevin Costner). The two are further involved through a single mom named Cybil (the undernourished Courteney Cox, from *Friends*) whose would-be outlaw kid, Jesse (David Kaye), is named after Jesse James. As always, there's a good deal of bonding between the kid and our heroes. I'd imagine the key audience for a candy-assed R-rated actioner like this would be 18-to-24-year-old males—why would they want a little brother tagging along?

Rhinestone Con Man: Kevin Costner leads a group of crooks impersonating Elvis impersonators who rob a Vegas casino.

When an ex-MTV director—and God, director Demian Lichtenstein surely is one—quotes a famous movie in a video, it's a tribute. When he constructs an entire movie out of quotes from better films, it's parroting. Watching *3000 Miles to Graceland* is like having a little critic in your head saying, "OK, here's the Peckinpah, here's the Russ Meyer scene, here's the Oliver Stone, here's the *Apocalypse Now* helicopter, here's the John Woo, and here's the obligatory close-up of one of those Martin Scorsese discarded cigarette butts." As the Duchy of Lichtenstein is to the nations of the world, so is Demian Lichtenstein to the world of filmmakers. Except for a tiny dose of the neon, most of the movie takes place in the overcast and wet mountains—it's another gray Canadian movie. (The cheap photography is by a previous offender, David Franco of *The Whole Nine Yards.*) And you'd have to be on as many drugs as Elvis was to believe the coincidences in the script, the characterization, the motivation.

It's a long wait until the Soderbergh remake of *Ocean's 11* . . . the robbery scene in *3000 Miles to Graceland* is not going to go down in movie history; it's about one level above a smash-and-grab burglary and it ends by blasting every cop and guard in sight (including a midget dressed like Elvis—eat lead, midget!). Maybe the meanest thing in this stupidly violent and staggeringly cheap movie are the post-mod jokes about Elvis: the villain's demise on the floor next to the crapper—in honor of the King's ignoble demise—and all the actors trying to keep up some menace in their rhinestone-covered jumpsuits with their Captain Marvel capes. Kevin Costner's career decline isn't going to be slowed by his performance as a psycho in a naugahyde outfit. But even the most dreadful Elvis impersonator has more class than this time-waster.

Richard von Busack

3,000 Miles to Graceland (R: 120 min.), directed by Demian Lichtenstein, written by Richard Recco and Demian Lichtenstein, photographed by David Franco and starring Kevin Costner, Kurt Russell and Courteney Cox, plays at selected theaters valleywide.

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—7:30, 10:15 plus Sat-Sun 2, 4:40.

Stanford Theater
221 University Ave (650.324.3700)
Love Me Tonight—Thu (Mar 1) Fri 7:30.
One Hour with You—Thu (Mar 1) Fri 6, 9:10.
Hallelujah, I'm a Bum—Sat 7:30.
The Kid from Spain—Sat 5:20, 9:05.
Viennese Nights—Sun-Mon 7:30 plus Sun 3:40.
The Vagabond King—Sun-Mon 5:35, 9:25.
The Phantom President—Thu (Mar 8) 7:50.
Going Hollywood—Thu (Mar 8) 6, 9.

SAN JOSE

Almaden Cinema Five
2690 Almaden Rd (408.265.7373)
Best In Show—5:15, 9:30.
The Family Man—7.
Snatch—5:45, 10.
The Pledge—7:45.
Vertical Limit—12:45, 3:15, 9:45.
Unbreakable—3:10, 7:40.
Meet the Parents—1:15, 3:25, 9:30.
Miss Congeniality—3:20, 7:30.
Rugrats In Paris—12:15, 3:45.
102 Dalmatians—1:55.
What Women Want—noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 9:50.
The Emperor's New Groove—12:30, 2:15, 4.

Camera One
366 S. First St (408.998.3300)
Cinequest 2001—Schedules are available in the theater lobby.
Quills—Mon-Thu 5:35, 8.

Camera 3
Second and San Carlos streets (408.998.3300)
Cinequest 2001—Schedules are available in the theater lobby.
In the Mood for Love—4:50, 7, 9:10 plus Sat-Sun 12:30, 2:40.
O Brother, Where Art Thou?—5, 7:20, 9:30 plus Sat-Sun 12:15, 2:30.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—Mon-Thu 4:35, 7:05, 9:25.

Century Capitol 16
Capitol/Monterey (408.972.9276)
The Mexican—11:30, 12:30, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 5, 6, 7, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 10:30.
See Spot Run—11:15, 12:15, 1:30, 2:30, 3:45, 4:45, 7:10, 9:30.
Hannibal—1:35, 4:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:25.
Down to Earth—11:15, 12:25, 1:25, 2:35, 3:30, 4:45, 5:45, 7:10, 8, 9:20, 10:20.
Recess: School's Out—11:50, 1:55, 4:05, 7:05.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—11:25, 2:15, 5:05, 7, 7:50, 9:45, 10:35.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—11:40, 2:20, 4:55, 7:35, 10:10.
Traffic—12:50, 4:10, 7:15, 10:15.
Chocolat—1, 4, 6:50 (except Tue), 9:35 (except Tue).
Sweet November—11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:25, 10:05.
The Wedding Planner—noon, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20, 9:40.
Save the Last Dance—12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 7:40, 10.
Monkeybone—11:35, 1:45.

Century 10 Berryessa
Berryessa Road/Capitol Avenue (408.926.7091)
The Mexican—11:45, 1, 2:15, 3:45, 5, 7, 7:45, 9:30, 10:20.
See Spot Run—12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 7:05, 9:10.
Hannibal—12:50, 4, 7:10, 10.
Down to Earth—noon, 1:50, 3:40, 5:30, 7:30, 9:20.
Recess: School's Out—12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 7, 9:40.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—11:50, 2:25, 5, 7:40, 10:10.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50, 10:15.
Monkeybone—9.
The Wedding Planner—12:30, 2:50, 5:20, 7:20, 9:50.
Sweet November—11:55, 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40.

Century 21
Winchester/I-280 (408.984.5610)
The Mexican—11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:30.

Century 22
Winchester/I-280 (408.984.5610)
The Mexican—1, 4, 7, 9:50.
See Spot Run—11:50, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 9:30.
3,000 Miles to Graceland—11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:30.

Century 23
Winchester/I-280 (408.984.5610)
Hannibal—12:45, 4:10, 7:15, 10:10.
Down to Earth—11:35, 1:40, 3:50, 6, 8:05, 10:25.

Century 24
Winchester/I-280 (408.984.5610)
Traffic—12:30, 3:15, 7, 10:10.
Chocolat—noon, 2:35, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25.

Century 25
Campbell and Saratoga avenues (408.984.5610)
The Wedding Planner—Fri, Mon-Thu 4:30, 7, 9:25; Sat-Sun 11:30, 1:55, 4:15, 7, 9:25.
Monkeybone—Fri, Mon-Thu 1:40, 7:15; Sat-Sun 11:30, 1.
Shadow of the Vampire—Fri-Thu 9:50 plus Sat-Sun 1, 5:15.

Hackworth IMAX Dome Theater
The Tech Museum of Innovation, 201 S. Market St, San Jose (408.294.TECH)
www.thetech.org/ops/admissions
Mysteries of Egypt—daily 11am, 1, 4 plus Thu-Sat 6, 8.
Cosmic Voyage—daily noon, 3 plus Thu-Sat 7.
Wild California—daily 2 plus Sat-Sun 5.

Towne Theater
1433 The Alameda (408.287.1433)
Faithless—1, 6:50, 9:35 plus Sat-Sun 1:10.
Yi Yi—8:15 plus Sat-Sun 2:10, plus Mon-Thu 5.
The House of Mirth—5:40 plus Mon-Thu 8:15.
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon—4:30, 7, 9:25 plus Sat-Sun 2.

SANTA CLARA

AMC Mercado 20
3111 Mission College Blvd (408.919.0248)
www.amctheaters.com
The Mexican
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
See Spot Run
Down to Earth
Chocolat
3,000 Miles to Graceland
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SARATOGA

AMC Saratoga 14
500 El Paseo de Saratoga (408.871.1441)
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
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DRIVE-INS

Capitol
Capitol Expressway and Snell Avenue, San Jose (408.226.2251)
The Mexican;
Save the Last Dance
See Spot Run;
Miss Congeniality
3,000 Miles to Graceland;
Sweet November
Down to Earth;
What Women Want
Hannibal;
Wes Craven Presents: Dracula 2000
Saving Silverman;
The Wedding Planner

ONE-NIGHTERS

cine16
Basement of Agenda, 399 S. First St, San Jose
www.cine16.com
cine16—Thu 7pm.

The French Ciné-Club of Palo Alto
Art Center Auditorium, 1313 Newell Rd, Palo Alto (408.325.3831)
Wild Reeds—Wed 8pm.

Silicon Valley Employment Weekly

WORK

BY ANNALEE NEWITZ

Made in Japan

All Your Base Are Belong to Us

THE FACT IS, you can neither explain nor deny the seductive, satiric power of the Internet phenomenon known as All Your Base Are Belong to Us (AYBABTU for short). To understand it, you must first know the story of a strange console game named Zero Wing (see http://schnell.net/yuorbase.html for more details). Zero Wing is a Japanese import whose "live action" introduction was translated by an over-eager and under-edited non-native English speaker. It features anime-type figures exchanging dialogue like this: "You have no chance to survive make your time!" and "Take off every 'zig'! Move 'zig'! For great justice" (quotes around 'zig' are included in the dialogue itself).

Geeks around the world have turned the language of Zero Wing into art, cultural commentary, obscenity, whatever. On hundreds of chat boards, hacked websites and devious privacy statements, you will find the phrase All Your Base Are Belong To Us. But the most common way you'll find AYBABTU is as a sentence photoshopped into images of George W., McDonalds signs, Budweiser ads, billboards, road signs, mating animals, airplanes, and of course, pictures from The A-Team.

This is high-tech graffiti whose significance goes beyond the urge to deface. There is something distinctly creepy and even symbolic about seeing the words "All your base are belong to us" under the McDonald's logo, or on the metal body of Airforce One.

But what makes AYBABTU so funny? Why is everybody talking about it? It's virtually impossible to explain, but part of it is the absurdity of Zero Wing's incomprehensible dialogue (and punctuation, as when a character exclaims, "What you say!!").

And yet what's going on in Zero Wing's introduction is probably clear to any fan of flying-in-space-shooting-enemies games. A whole bunch of your guys got blown up, your enemy has thumbed his nose at you ("How are you gentlemen!! All your base are belong to us."), and you'd better move your 'zig' or your ass will be blown up too. Even the enigmatic 'zig' seems to hint at meaning: it could be a ship, a weapon, or just a generic dangerous thing. After all, it's not as if games with flawlessly grammatical introductions don't also have moments of utter madness. No gamer would truly be surprised to see an all-American game that said, "Shoot the 'zig' for 100 points." And then you'd see an image of the 'zig'—a pile of pixels in some random bug/spaceship/animal shape.

So I guess part of what makes AYBABTU worth a thousand Internet jokes is that somewhere deep down we know we're idiots for playing games that are so obviously ridiculous, even when translated correctly.

Then again, there's creepy part of AYBABTU I mentioned earlier. Pictures of political leaders saying "All your base are belong to us" strike a possibly-not-so-humorous chord. They're a cynical reminder that we live in a world full of increasingly garbled messages (just take a listen to George W.'s pseudo-literate comments) which all seem to be saying the same thing: we own you; give up; move your damn 'zig' out of the way.

There's also a nationalist undercurrent. I showed the Gabber Robots' AYBABTU video to a baby-boomer friend, who took in the menacing broken English phrases and immediately wondered, Cold War-style, "Is this Russian?" But most people from my post-boom generation knew immediately that the game was Japanese. We, of course, were raised with fears about economic war with Japan, having figured out that Russian nukes were more likely to fall in movies than in real life. So the military conflict of AYBABTU is in the eye of the beholder: it sparks dark hilarity about some random "hostile foreign force" who has it in for us. Maybe that's why Salon.com is reporting that the joke is popular with people in the military.

ALL YOUR BASE ARE BELONG TO US!

I'm just glad that graffiti is flourishing online. Graffiti is, after all, a time-honored medium of subversive, underground communication. That's why certain hackers scrawl "All your base are belong to us" somewhere in their exploits. And that's why some kid took a picture of the billboard at his middle school and Photoshopped it to read, "Anal Exams. All Your Base Are Belong To Us."

Annalee Newitz (zig@techsploitation.com) is a surly media nerd who writes for great justice!

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Placing an Ad

By Phone
Call the Classified Department at 408.298.8500 or 408.354.3110, Monday through Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm.

By Fax
Fax your ad to the Classified Department at 408.271.3520.

By Mail
Use the Classified order form in this section and mail to Metro Classifieds, 550 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113.

In Person
Visit our offices Monday through Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm at 550 South First Street, San Jose.

E-Mail
classifieds@metronews.com
Please include your Visa, MC, Discover or American Express number and expiration date for payment.

Deadlines
For copy, payment, space reservation or cancellation:
Display ads: Friday 3pm
Line ads: Monday 3pm
Romance ads: Monday noon

Contacting Us

Metro Classifieds
550 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113
Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 5:30pm
Charge by phone, fax or e-mail 24 hours a day

408.977.0108
408.271.3520
classifieds@metronews.com

Restaurant
First class golf course looking for team players for Wait Staff, Bartenders, and Beverage Cart Drivers. Full time/part time positions available. Stop by or call Robert Horrillo at 408/463-3400x112. One Coyote Creek Golf Drive, off Highway 101 in South San Jose.

Retail
Bluedoor.com, is seeking a full time employee. $8-$12/hr plus benefits. Duties: shipping, receiving, data entry, inventory control. Requirements: HS diploma, good verbal, written, organizational and computer skills. Send a resume ASAP to: hr@bluedoor.com or fax 408/733-2372. Call 408/733-3470.

RETAIL FUN!
Immediate Openings!
*Store Manager
*Asst. Manager
*Lead Sales Assoc's
*Sales Associates
(Assoc. Positions P/T)
Competitive $$$$$
Excellent Benefits
(Full-time only)

Sanrio, Inc. (home of Hello Kitty), a leading designer of a unique line of children's accessories and gift items, has immediate openings at our Valley Fair Mall store location in Santa Clara. We are looking for flexible individuals with a strong retail background in:
*Customer Relations
*Employee Training
*Merchandising
*Banking

Please FAX or email with salary requirements to:
Sanrio Surprises
Attn: Eve Stein
Fax: (650)872-1077
Submitresume@ Sanrio.com
No phone calls, please.
Sanrio, Inc.
E.O.E.

Retail Fun!
Immediate Openings!
*Store Manager
*Asst. Manager
*Lead Sales Assoc's
*Sales Associates
(Assoc. positions P/T)
Competitive $$$
Excellent Benefits
(Full-time only)
See our employment display ad for complete details
Valley Fair Mall
Sanrio, Inc.
E.O.E.

Retail
Bluedoor.com, is seeking a full time employee. $8-$12/hr plus benefits. Duties: shipping, receiving, data entry, inventory control. Requirements: HS diploma, good verbal, written, organizational and computer skills. Send a resume ASAP to: hr@bluedoor.com or fax 408/733-2372. Call 408/733-3470.

Retail
Women's Apparel. Vallco Mall, flexible hours. Part-time and full-time. 408/257-2252

Sales
For a top modeling agency. Looking for self motivated individual. Great pay, benefits. Call Mary 408/402-9904

Sales Manager
Established antique furnishings co. is looking for a full time store manager for our new store in Menlo Park. Great compensation & benefits. Fax resume to 831/425-3810 or mail to: Rick Allen 2117 Delaware, Santa Cruz, 95060.

Sales
Women's Apparel. Vallco Mall, flexible hours. Part-time and full-time. 408/257-2252

Security Guard
No experience needed. Call between 8:30-10:30.
408/436-1418. Start next Friday.

Social Services
Adult Day Care Program Director
BA/BS in relevant field required. $30K. EOE.
408/971-9363.

Social Services
Residential Manager
Our clients need you! Residential Manger for a group home for Autistic & Developmentally Disabled children. Bring your love and talent to our agency. This is not just another job! Lots of fun! Salary extremely competitive, benefits & more. Call 408/245-3400, Rachel. EOE.

Social Services
Support Specialist
Provide instruction and support to adults with developmental disabilities. Both entry-level and positions requiring experience available. HS diploma or GED required. Competitive wages and benefits. Send resume to: 1095 Bird Avenue, Suite #4, San Jose, CA 95125. Attn:Shea.

Swim Instructors
Year round swim school, indoor heated pool. No experience necessary, will train.
408/446-5600 or stop by at 2111 Steven's Creek Blvd in the Cupertino Sports Center across from De Anza College.

Teacher/ESL
ESL teacher for homeless shelter. Sundays 2:30 to 4pm, Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:30pm. $15.00 per hour. Call 408/793-0441.

Teachers Needed
For year-round wilderness camp. State certification or certificate eligibility required. Must enjoy being outdoors and helping at-risk youth. More info/apply on-line at www.eckerd.org. (AAN CAN)

The Body Boutique
in Los Gatos is hiring Receptionist, massage therapists, Esthetician.
408/379-3186

Typist
Accurate, reliable typist needed Wednesday nights. Must type quickly and accurately, and be familiar with Macintosh. Apply to Jane Cox, Metro Newspapers, 408.298.8000 or fax resume 408.279.5813.

Vegetation Inspectors
Premier Pacific Coast Vegetation Management consulting firm is seeking individuals knowledgeable in the green industry for various openings throughout the San Francisco and South Bay area. Utility Line Clearance and the Green Industry exp a plus. Degree in Forestry or a related field desired, but not necessary. Proficiency in tree/vegetation identification and PR/customer service skills essential. Exp. with proper arboricultural techniques and practices a plus. Co. vehicle provided. Must have a clean driving record. Bfts pkg included. Start your career today with Western Environmental Consultants, Inc! Visit our website: www.WEC-consulting.com Send resume & salary requirements to:
WEC Attn:HR/S38
Fax: 800/871-1308 E-mail: hr@ECI-consulting.com
Mail: PO Box 1475, Southampton, PA 18966.
Equal Opportunity Employer.

W&W
WAITERS ON WHEELS
Operators
P/T or F/T
Typing, customer service a plus. Multi-tasked. Opportunity for advancement. Starts $8/hr.
408/370-2505

Waiter
Experienced dinner server for upscale four-star Italian bistro. Great people and tips. You'll be happy here! Call 408/871-3131.

Work at Home

$1,500 Potential
Part time. $4,500 to $7,200 potential full time per month. Work in home. International company needs supervisors and assistants. Training and FREE booklet. Call 313/438-4177.

$1,500 Potential
Part time. $4,500 to $7,200 potential full time per month. Work in home. International company needs supervisors and assistants. Training and FREE booklet. Call 313/438-4177.

Attention Readers
Some ads in this section may require an initial investment or fee. Metro Newspapers encourages you to thoroughly investigate any advertiser's claims before sending payment.

Home Employment
$1,500 potential part-time; $4,500 to $7,200 potential full-time per month. Work in home. International company needs supervisors and assistants. Training and Free booklet. Start date:02/12/01. Call 1-313-438-4177.
Www.globalacclaim.com
(AAN CAN).

Work Wanted

Home Manager
Seeking rental decrease in exchange for pt services. Make ahead meals, errands, and other domestic services?
408/448-9024

Home Services

Notice To Readers
Licensed contractors are required by State law to list their license number in advertisements. The law also states contractors performing work totalling $500 or more must be state licensed. For more information contact: Contractors State License Board 1-800-321-CSLB.

Carpentry

REB Construction
Carpentry, remodeling, decks, water and termite repairs, doors, windows. License #738190. Call Bob 408/286-1183.

Carpet, Floor

Hardwood Floor
Installation, repair, refinishing. Free estimate, excellent work.
408/738-8863. Pager: 408/860-3189.
Mobile: 408/568-9755.

JP's Carpet Cleaning
Commercial, residential. Free estimates. 408/315-2173.

Lim's Hardwood Floors
Install & refinish. Insured & Bonded. Over 15 years experience. Free Estimates. Lic # 743719. 408/995-6789 or page 408/304-4453

THE CARPET CENTER
All Major Brands
100% Wool Berber
Low Prices
Guar. Lic. Prof. Installation
408/871-0792
SHOP AT HOME

Concrete

POWER WASHING
STEAM CLEANING
• CONCRETE
• BRICK
• AGGREGATE
408/867-5911
TOP-RATED VALUESTAR
CLEAN SWEEP SERVICES

OS Construction
Specializing in all kinds concrete and brick work. Driveways, patios, blockwalls, etc. Free estimates. License #786158. 650/568-2771.

Contractors

I.M.T. Group
Builders Inc.
Framing, remodeling, retro and commercial.
License #789137
408/293-5754

RGS Construction
Remodel, repairs, specializing in custom bathrooms, kitchens. Quality work, excellent references. 25 years experience. License #391398. 408/353-1471. www.rgs-rick.com

Spread the Word!
Say you saw it in the Metro Classifieds!

Peter Lyon
General Contractor, Inc.
License # 631415
• Additions
• Major Remodels
• Architechtural Woodworking
• Design Services Available
• Uncompromised Quality
408/871-8665

Drywall

Lowest Prices
Highest quality. Small job specialist. Rankin Construction. CSLB #585255. 408/448-3400.

Electrical

Southwest Electric Generator or Emergency Hook-Up
Panel changes- 200amp/100amp. Heater hook-ups. Electrical panels, extra circuits, GFI's, lighting. Spa hook-ups, Swimming pool electric. Remodeling, new work. Ceiling fans. All your electrical needs. Commercial and residential. License #710041.
408/506-6421

Connections
Television, phone, stereo and computer. 408/591-6341

Gardening, Landscaping

Alta Landscapes
Quality design, installation of all phases including sod, sprinklers, brick, flagstone, retaining walls, drainage and more. 23 years experience. #C27-664479. 1-800-758-7020

Gardening & Landscaping

ELIAS'S GARDENING
HAULING
ALL TYPES OF YARD WORK
• *FREE ESTIMATES*
• *SENIOR DISCOUNTS*
• *ELIAS TOME/OWNER*
408/472-7229
408/929-1860

La Cucaracha

NEWS ITEM: MEXICAN PRESIDENT FOX TAKES LEAD ON BORDER ISSUES

VANISHED

If You Have Seen or Have Any Information, Call

1-800-VANISHED

Edgar Noe Madrigal

Date of Birth:	1-5-90
Date Missing:	8-7-99
Missing Type:	Missing Person
Missing From:	San Jose, CA
Eye Color:	Brown
Hair Color:	Black
Height:	4' 3"
Weight:	85-90 Lbs
Race:	Hispanic

LAW ENFORCEMENT HANDLING CASE:
Sunnyvale Police Department (408) 730-7100 or 7110

NCA Vanished Children's Alliance 2095 Ford Ave., San Jose, CA 95124

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Residential-Commercial-Construction

REFINANCE • PURCHASE

LOWER MONTHLY PAYMENTS
FREE PRE-QUALIFICATION
- Conforming Loans to $252,700
- Lowest Rates
- Debt Consolidation
- Fast Equity Loans
- Self-Employed-Credit Problems OK

Call
KIM BARROW
Mortgage Resources
(408) 243-4010 Bus
(408) 631-6753 Pager
[illegible] Saratoga Avenue #115
email: kbarrow@aol.com

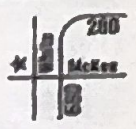
Let us get you somewhere fast! Check out Metro's Classified vacation and travel section today

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Northview Village

Luxury Townhomes in San Jose

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2-Car Garage
- Master Bedroom with Master Retreat
- Prices Starting at Mid $400,000's
- 2.5-3 bathrooms
- 1700+ Square Feet
- Quality Amenities & Features including: granite kitchen countertops, double-paned windows, berber or plush carpet, marble entryway and air conditioning.



Call Leah Jow @ (408) 568-0497 for more details

Open Sat & Sun 10-5, Mon., Tues., Fri. 11:30-5:30

Visit our website at www.gmillie.com/northviewvillage

Gutters

Pete's Gutter Cleaning
And repair. Concrete and window cleaning. 10 years experience. 408/995-7363.

Handypeople

Handyman Deluxe
20 years experience, all aspects of house repair, remodeling. References. John 408/823-3224, 831/469-3372.

Handyman
For all seasons. Maintenance and electrical. Try us 408/227-9671, cell 408/499-4949

J&E Janitorial, Maintenance, & Handyman
Interiors, exteriors. Bathroom repairs, plumbing, tile. Insured. 408/294-0592

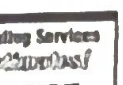
Haulers

ASSOCIATED HAULING & BOBCAT SERVICES

408/265-3912

Dirt, concrete, sod, lot clearing, asphalt, driveway and patio removal. Jackhammer services. Free Estimates

Pacific Hauling Services
Hauling Specialists!
Fast, Reliable, Reasonable



Debris boxes now available!
Commercial & Residential
Same Day Service 7 Days
Construction, Debris, Dirt, Concrete
We Haul Anything! Anywhere! Anytime!
Senior Discounts!
(408) 241-1438

Heating, Air Cond.

Park Air
Heating and Air Conditioning Sales, Sales and Repairs
Lic# 747803
408/394-3579

Hiring? Email Us For Rates!
[illegible]@[illegible].com

14 point pre-season
Furnace Tune-up
only $69 with ad
Atlas Residential
Trillo Commercial
Heating & Air Conditioning
408/286-8931
408/286-3715
Don't wait until that first cold day!
Free Estimates on Installation

House Cleaning

California Magic Touch
Residential & Commercial Quality cleaning service. We also clean Window blinds. Insured, Licence#137346 Call 408/836-7052.

Rosita's House Cleaning
Reliable, 15 years experience, guaranteed, free estimates. You tried the rest, now try the best. Call 408/259 2841.

Painting

FLICK PAINTING CO.
Specializing in Quality Custom Commercial and Residential Finishes
Free Estimates
Will Flick
Owner
(408) 279-6144
Lic No 672[illegible]

HUGHES & JARRETT
PAINTING SERVICES
Specialize in Wallpaper Removal & Interior Painting
FREE ESTIMATES!!!
Call 408/287-4926
Lic #137193

Thomas Painting
20 Years of Quality Custom Residential & Commercial Work
Lic #618336
Bonded & Insured
(408) 227-1925

Kitchen/Bath

Best Price Best Quality
Free estimates. Additions, Kitchen, tub/shower, tiles, plumbing, electrical, floors, bedroom, cabinets, termite and water damage, license contractor. San Jose Handyman Improvement at reasonable prices. License#687763 Bonded and insured ACI Inc 408/730-4931

Remodeling, Repair

American Dream Construction CO.
Since 1984
- Complete Remodeling
- Interior & Exterior
- Residential & Commercial
- Specializing in kitchen, bath room & all types of remodeling!

(408) 374-4911
fax (408) 374-5122
Lic# 694[illegible]

Roofing

Pro-Roofers, Inc.
Get the professional work you're looking for at a **GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE.** Experience the friendly, no problem service of a small company.
408-821-4199

R E Roofing
TOP RATED VALUE STAR
Winter Sale!
Protect your home with FireTree ROOFING MATERIALS
Visit us on the web at: reroofingshowroom.com
— 408 — 925-9995
License 672[illegible]

ROOFS & GUTTERS
WARNER ROOFING CONTRACTORS
ELK
www.elkcorp.com
Class 'A' fire ratings
re-roofing, repairs
40 years manufacturing
limited warranty Seamless gutters #672928
Free Estimates
408/777-8331

Telephone Service

The Telephone Guys
Residential, commercial. Main, las modems, DSL lines. Data networking. Satellite and cable hook ups. Fast same day service. Licence #1369704400 408/358-8785

Tree Service

General Tree Service
Trimming, removal, pruning, stump grinding. Licensed and insured. 408/499-5671

Real Estate For Sale

Notice
All real estate advertised in Metro Newspapers is subject to the State and federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status (the presence of children) or national origin, or the intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. State and locale laws forbid discrimination in the sale, rental, or advertising of real estate. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis to the best of our knowledge.

Homes

$0 Down Homes
Gov't & bank foreclosures! Low or no down! OK credit! For listings now! 800/501-1777 x5050.

Fixers, Foreclosures
Desperation sales. Don't pay full price. Seven Oaks Properties. 408/782-7774

Los Gatos Prestigious Quality Home
Only 10 years old. In a private court. View of the hills. 4 bedroom 2 bath, formal dining, living and family rooms, 2 fireplaces. Carpet, Ceramic tile, hardwood, and marble floorings. Large lot with fruit trees. Only $995,000! Agent 408/252-3885 Exclusive Ltd. Pictures at www.arace.com

Remodeled San Jose Home, Move In Condition!
4 bedroom, 2 bath. Living room, family room with dining area. New front siding, doors and kitchen. Appliances, linoleum, with carpet. Double pained windows, hardwood floors, custom tiled baths. Exterior and interior painted. $630,000 Agent 408/252-3885 Pictures at www.arace.com

Land

Boulder Creek 23 Beautiful acres
backs to State Park. Secluded, quiet and pristine, full of Redwoods. $225k Owner will carry, broker 408/395-5754

Miscellaneous

Complete **Estate and Collections** bought for cash. Contact, DGW, 650/559 8905.

Real Estate Rentals

Apart./Cottage Rentals

Spread the Word!
Say you saw it in the Metro Classifieds!

NEW YEARS ★ SPECIAL ★
$500 OFF MOVE-IN
Bright and spacious 1BR & 2BR in beautiful residential neighborhood. Serene creekside location, 2 blocks from downtown Los Gatos. Completely remodeled interiors, oversized patios, pool, laundry. From $2,500.
Bay Tree Apartments, 347 Manuel Avenue 408/354-7317

CAL RENTALS
Save Time
Save Money
$20 Off
408/244-2300

3911 Stevens Creek Blvd at Saratoga Ave
M-F Everyday Fee
www.calrentals.com

Fremont
Come see the difference. Large pools, spa, fitness center. Huge floor plans. Large studio $1100-$1515, 1 bedroom $1410-$1485, 2 bedroom $1680-$1800, 2 bedroom townhouse $1950 plus, 3 bedroom $2110. 510/797-9446

Los Gatos/Campbell
$1250 1 Bedroom, large, clean $1350 cottage yard, pet
2 Bedroom, $1500, quiet
2 Bedroom, $1550, garage
3 Bedroom, $2150, yard
More available all areas.
Section 8 OK, fee
408/244-2300, Calrentals.com

Mountain View
Glenwood Garden Apartments. Gated courtyard setting. Walk to downtown and Caltrain. Minutes to freeway. Pool. Sorry, no pets. 650/961 3370 or fax 650/961-1282.

Palo Alto/Los Altos
Fayette Arms Apartments. Spacious furnished and unfurnished 1 and 2 bedroom apartments. Near shopping center. Sauna, pool, fitness center. Sorry, no pets 650/948-5491 or fax 650/948 8757.

Condo, Townhomes

Cupertino-85
First floor furnished bedrooms in townhouse. Private bath, carport. No weekends. $650 408/255-8859.

Live, Work Lofts
Brand new spacious townhouse style lofts in restored historical building on Mission Blvd. Close to highway 680. All units have Cat 5 wiring, washer and dryer, all appliances, and ample parking. Rents start at $2,500 month. Please call 408/809-1384 or e mail sunger@sjcdhomes.com

Homes

Fremont/Hayward
$975 1 Bedroom, clean, quiet
$1100 1 Bedroom, quiet, large
2 Bedroom, $1700, pet
3 Bedroom, $1695, garage
4 Bedroom, $2000, yard
More available all areas.
Section 8 OK, fee
408/244-2300 Calrentals.com

Gilroy/San Jose
$895 studio, clean
$900 1 Bedroom quiet, large
$995 cottage, yard
2 Bedroom, $1100, quiet
2 Bedroom, $1695, large
More available all areas.
Section 8 OK, fee
408/244-2300 Calrentals.com

Sunnyvale/ Palo Alto
$975 1 Bedroom, large, clean
$1295 cottage and yard
2 Bedroom, $1400 quiet
2 Bedroom, $1500, pet
3 Bedroom, $1950, pet
More available all areas.
Section 8 OK, fee
408/244-2300 Calrentals.com

Rentals Wanted

Home Manager
Seeking rental decrease in exchange for pt services. Make errands, errands, and other domestic services? 408/448 9014

House Sitter Available
Professional East Coast homeowner in California from December through May. Seeks quiet space to write a book. Great with pets, plants, and respectful of property. References. Laurie 800/765 2739

Los Gatos
Single, Professional, male equestrian with references. Need room to rent by February 28th. 408/377-5038.

Los Gatos
Doctor/lawyer seeks nice 2 plus bedroom with yard. 6 month lease in downtown Los Gatos. Please call 831/427-0241

Room Needed
I'm a female student in SJSU. Going through hard times, lost job and apartment at the same time. Dont have anywhere to live, cannot pay alot. If you live in area from San Jose to Los Altos and have extra room for low rent please, help me! marinaa@yahoo.com 408/821 1121

Silicon Valley
35 year old landscape designer looking for commuting room 1 2 nights per week. Quiet, non-smoking male. 408/971-1343.

Rooms for Rent

Campbell
Looking for a responsible person to rent a room in my 2 bedroom 1 bath apartment. $800 plus deposit and 1/3 utilities. Kitchen privileges. 408/298-8000 ext 234 daytime. Possible child welcome!

Campbell
Room available in Los Gatos, Campbell border. Kitchen newly remodeled, large yard. $550. 408/866-4941.

Downtown Los Gatos
House on quiet street. Full house privileges. Large, private yard. Utilities included. $950. 408/354-1877

Shared Housing

$35!*
That's all it costs to place a private party Shared Housing ad. 12 words for 2 weeks (each additional word is $1) and it reaches 238,500 Community Classified readers. Aren't people like yourself the kind of person that you would want for a roommate? Call 408/298 8500 for more information. *Deadline is Friday, 3 pm

Goodroommate.com
Need help finding a compatible roommate? 408/629 6116 800/224 7822
www.goodroommate.com

Los Gatos
Unfurnished bedroom in furnished 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment. Female preferred. Non smoker, responsible, clean. $700 month, half utilities, $350 deposit. 408/395-4740.

Santa Cruz
2 bedroom, 1 bath house with yard. $700 plus deposit and utilities. 831/423-4199. 408/718-2686.

Willow Glen
Roommate wanted to share Willow Glen Townhome. Female preferred. Must be clean, responsible, and a non-smoker. No pets. 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Fully furnished. Pool, gym, great location! $850 plus utilities. Please call Dana at 408/220-7434 (work) or 408/267-3613 (home) or 408/799-7209 (cell)

Storage Space

Mini Storage
Attached garage, 20ftX20ft. Near 680, Milpitas. $600 a month plus deposit. 510/303-6880.

Vacation & Travel

Vacation Rentals

Costa Rican Beachfront property Own or Vacation in Our Tropical Paradise
www.puntauva.com

Lake Tahoe
Beautiful new apartment, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, bath. Close to Homewood and Emerald Bay. Easy walk to lake and beaches. $75 per night. 530/525-4613.

Northstar at Tahoe
Ski condo, 2 bedroom, 2 bath. $250-$295 per night. Call 408/370-7667.

South Lake Tahoe
Reardon Realty and Vacation Rentals 800/800-7779 or www.reardon-realty.com

South Lake Tahoe
3 bedroom, 2 bath, completely furnished, weekends or weekly. Call 408/252-6551.

Tahoe/Northstar
Condo, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Deck with great view, fireplace, laundry room. Call 408/741-0474.

Professional Services

Chef/Catering

Personal Chef
Imagine your life without having to cook everyday... Fran Weber's personal chef service specializes in the preparation of heat and serve meals for households on a weekly bases. All cooking is done in your home. Distinguished chef of 25 years. Complete portfolio available. 831/338-4228

Entertainment

Extras/Actors
Up to $500 a day! All looks needed. Call for info. 1-800-260-3949 x3025. (AAN CAN)

Financial Services

$$ Need A Loan?
Try Debt Consolidation. Cut payments to 50%!! Bad credit ok. No application fees!! 1-800-863-9006 ext. 838. www.help-pay-bills.com. (AAN CAN).

Credit Repair!
As seen on TV. Erase bad credit legally. Results guaranteed. Free 8 minutes of recorded info. (Toll free). 877/660-4968. (AAN CAN)

Guaranteed!
Remove any negative credit marks from your credit reports in thirty days. Charge offs, BKs, foreclosures, tax lien and more. Remove it and keep it off in 30 days or your money back. Call today. 1-800-334-3511.

Guaranteed!
Remove any negative credit marks from your credit reports in thirty days. Charge offs, BKs, foreclosures, tax lien and more. Remove it and keep it off in 30 days or your money back. Call today. **1-800-565-9797.**

Guaranteed!
Remove any negative credit marks from your credit reports in thirty days. Charge offs, BKs, foreclosures, tax lien and more. Remove it and keep it off in 30 days or your money back. Call today. **1-800-565-9797.**

Short On Cash?
Bad credit? No problem! $600 until payday! Call today, cash tomorrow! One hour phone approval. 1-877-4-PAYDAY/24 hours/7 days. (AAN CAN).

House, Pet Sitting

Spread the Word!
Say you saw it in the Metro Classifieds!

Insurance Services

Dental Plan For $7.15 a Month
Health and Dental. BayCrest Insurance 408/241-3350

Professional Services

Abe's VoiceMail
$9.50, $8.50, $7.50 Monthly. Unlimited messages. Local, 800 numbers. San Jose, East Bay, San Francisco, Marin, Sonoma. 408/882-5000. www.abesvoicemail.com

General Notices

Announcements

Activists
Fight for affordable housing! ACORN is training community organizers to mobilize low-income communities to fight for justice!...Call John for more information at 408/729-8860.

Seekers
Several Masters of Wisdom and their leader, the Christ, now have physical bodies. They'll soon be seen by everyone. Free information: 800-993-8503.

The Silicon Valley Disc Golf Club
is a public benefit, non-profit corporation that operates and maintains a disc golf (Frisbee golf) course at Hellyer Park in San Jose. The 9-hole course is open for free play and is east of #101 at Hellyer Ave. Enjoy a walk in the park with this no-cost, challenging sport. SVDGC would like to ask for your help. We have declared that the 5th Saturday of Mar, Jun, Sept, and December 2001 to be our work days. Any help would be appreciated. Thanks to all that have helped in the past with the concrete tee pads. Your efforts are really paying off for the rest of us this rainy season. For info or donations call 408/371-9984 ext. 17

Women Chance To Win $250
Ages 20-25, 35-50 with less than 1 year college, and no college for past 2 years to complete a UC Davis survey by mail. Paid $5, and entered in a drawing for $250. 530/752-5207.

Your Classified Ad
Printed in more than 100 alternative papers like this one for just $1150.00! To run your ad in papers with a total circulation exceeding 6.5 million copies per week, call the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies. No adult ads. 202-822-1955

Free, Giveaway

Free Art Stuff
Free Halloween and glitz party parade recycled arts stuff. 831/423-3557

Lost & Found

Found Dog
Spayed female. Border Collie/Retriever? Found January 17, 2001, Kennedy/Los Gatos Boulevard. Overweight, older. 408/741-3500.

Lost Cat
Tortoise shell. Female. 5 years. Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos. Lost January 14th. Reward. 408/263-1838.

Sentimental Value
1 contemporary white and yellow gold hoop earing with diamonds. Lost February 11th in Willow Glen around Lincoln. Sentimental value. 408/551-4655.

Miscellaneous

Complete
Estate and Collections
bought for cash. Contact, DGW: 650/559-8905.

Homeless Children
In a shelter need: fresh fruit, hard boiled eggs, cheese and nuts, toys, baby items, diapers, sports equipment, "trendy" school supplies, disposable cameras, batteries, cassette players, CD players, radios, stickers, boxed valentines, new Easter Bunnies, Spanish translators and other volunteers please. 408/793-0441.

Wanted: Giants Tickets
Club Section, 2-4 seats for 6-10 games. hps@hpspc.com.

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Printed in more than 100 alternative papers like this one for just $1150.00! To run your ad in papers with a total circulation exceeding 6.5 million copies per week, call the Association of Alternative Newsweeklies. No adult ads. 202-822-1955

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Classes & Instruction

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For elementary, high-school, and college students. Algebra, Geometry, Calc. Chemistry, Physics, etc. Many years experience. Excellent references. Reasonable rates. Ivy-league and UCB educated. Will drive to your home. ED 408/295-5422

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All levels of Saratoga-Los Gatos math. Relates well to students. Parent/Teacher references. 408/867-6518.

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Private classes In Ashtanga Yoga as taught by Sri K. Pattabhi Jois of Mysore India. Call 650/851-7275

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Automobiles for Sale

1982 Datsun 280 ZX
Excellent shape, garaged, great paint, tires, stereo, runs perfect. $3500. 408/450-2840

1990 Volvo 740 Wagon
Power windows, power locks, air conditioning, mag wheel's. Clean inside and out. Great for family. Call for more details. Used Car Factory 408/971-3311

2000 Land Rover Discovery II
9000 miles, premium sound, leather, silver/grey, factory warranty. $34,995. Call 408/374-0131 www.ebmotors.com

82' Fiat Spider
Convertable, 5sp. A true classic. Good Condition. Call for details. Used Car Factory 408/971-3311

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2.2 Cylinder, manual transmission, red with grey leather interior. Power windows, locks, CD player, moon/sunroof, keyless entry, and air conditioning. 59,000 miles; drives very well. Excellent condition. $16,000. Call 408/439-1628.

Camero'96
White, 5 speed, low mileage. Like new condition. $11,300, or best offer. 408/205-2966.

Corvette'91
Green with black interior, 2 tops, 6 speed. Excellent condition! $12,500. 408/741-0133.

Ford F-700 90'
Flat bed (16 foot). Desiel, dually. Call for more info. Used Car Factory. 408/971-3311

Ford Taurus GL 1994
FFV Sedan, automatic, air conditioning, power steering, power breaks. Clean inside and out, one owner. Low miles 44k. $3700 obo. Call 408/373-3994

Mazda 323 '86
5-speed, new front brake pads & rotors, New rear brake drums. 4-cylinder, hatchback. New battery, starter, distributor advance unit. Runs great! Smogged. $1600. Or best offer. 408/995-0912.4

MBZ 500 SEL 84'
Great condition. Chrome wheels. Call for more info. Used Car Factory. 408/971-3311

Mercedes 300 SL '91
Silver 2 tops. Xcnt cond. $29,500. Call 408/315-2555

Mercedes 560 SL
1987. Powder blue, 2 tops, 76K miles. Excellent condition. $22,500. Day:408/206-2958. Evening:408/452-5544.

Toyota 4x4 94'
Automatic, 16k, full of option package, hitch. Very clean. Call for more details. Used Car Factory. 408/971-3311

Toyota Corolla DX 1991
Station Wagon, automatic, power steering, power brakes. Great gass saver. 92k, runs fine. $4700 obo. Call 408/373-3994

Volvo 240 GL Sedan 1989
Automotive, air conditioning, power steering, power breaks. Alpine Stereo system. Only 89k, one owner. Excellent condition. $4500 obo. Call 408/373-3994

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Mountain bike. $175 or best offer. 831/457-9153

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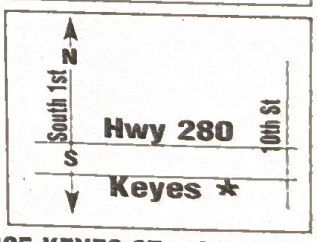

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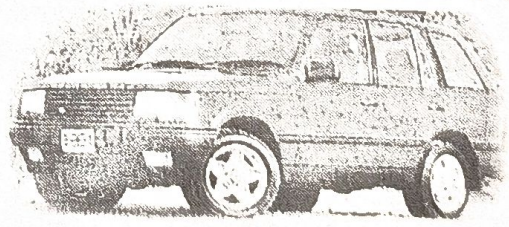
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San Jose, CA 95113.

email
classifieds@metronews.com
Please include your Visa, MC, Discover or American Express number and expiration date for payment. For security purposes, we recommend splitting the credit card number into two email messages.

Ad copy

Headline (18 char. max)

Text

Rates

Private Party Rates
$25 for 12 words for 2 weeks, each additional word $1.

Headlines
10 pt. 18 characters per line $20

Commercial Rates

Call 408.298.8500 to speak to an advertising representative.

Ads run in Metro Silicon Valley & Metro Santa Cruz.

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Other payment ○ Check or money order

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Cardholder

Expiration date

Mailing address

City/Zip Tel.

Signature

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Moving Sale
860 Nectarine Avenue, Sunnyvale. Saturday, 3/10, 9-3pm. Baby items, general household items, furniture.

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Crate & Barrel Tables
Wrought iron and glass. Together $275, or best offer. 408/249-8840.

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14 piece CHERRY WOOD 92" double pedestal with 2 leafs. 8 chippendale chairs. Buffet/Hutch, plus server, all dove-tail still box. Cost $10,000-Sell $3,875. Call 510/715-9788.

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Rocking Chair
Bentwood rocker. Cane seat and back. $99. Preview at: http://home.pacbell.net/jewelsav/sale.html.

Water Bed
King size. Dark wood country style frame. Has a heater and some s heets. $150, or best offer. 408/283-0552.

Recreation/Hobbies

Sewing Machine
Brother computerized sewing machine with embroidery unit: 408/269-7226.

Sporting Goods

Golf Clubs
Ben Hogan Apex Plus. Iron, three- pitching wedge, new. Izzo bag included. $600. 408/768-7543.

Pool Table
4 by 8 custom oak. Excellent condition. $1,100. Evening: 408/354-6610.

Skate Ramp
Five foot tall half pipe. Brand new. $1750. 408/688-8998

Tread Mill
408/269-7226.

Miscellaneous

Craftsman Rollaway
5 drawer tool chest, and 10 drawer lockable tool chest filled with hundreds of high quality mechanics, hand/power tools. From sockets, ratchets, pliers, and drivers, to torque wrenches, spray guns and drill sets. All for $1,200, Call 408/241-9488.

Music

For Sale

Electric Guitar
Seven string ESP LTD H-307. see-through aqua finish, perfect condition. $495. Call 831/384-4618 or 831/521-4825.

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For only $20 a month with options, no obligations, nice selection. San Jose Piano located at 916 Bascom Ave. Call 408/275-6220

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Big Balls are absolutely the rudest crudest T-shirts anywhere. Order online www.butch1.ws or call 408/798-3646.

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Midi studi analog recorder with compressor, effects and more. Excellent condition! $650. Or best offer. Call Michael 408/973-9718.

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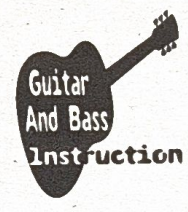

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Bass Player Wanted
For serious band. All original material. Looking to gig by June. Practice in San Jose. Transportation available. Alan 831/476-2133 or Jack 408/497-2831.

Bass Player Wanted
Working stiffs in cover band looking to gig 1-2 times a month in San Jose Area. Guitar rock and pop 60's-00's. Call Mike 408/782-0321.

Drummer Wanted
Original band replacing drummer for live shows in Bay Area/SF. 415/225-6803.

Experienced DJ
With sampling capabilities needed for extreme rock project. Santa Cruz based. Call Joey 831/454-9873.

Female singer/ songwriter
With looks, talent and 24 track studio seeks very theatrical musicians for high energy original modern rock band. Must be reliable and experienced. Call Anna. 831/684-0564.

Female Vocal & Bassist Seek
Guitarist and Drummer for working cover band. Vocals encouraged, gigs pending. Serious only! Melissa 408/371-8337.

Guitarist Needed
To add original sounds to beats of a live Hip-Hop band. Creativity, flexibility and effect pedals a must. 2-3 shows monthly. Jill 408/309-1318.

Guitarist Looking To Form Band
Gothic style, punk/metal band. San Jose based. Call anytime. Anthony 408/858-8287.

Musicians Wanted
Femal fronted band seeks free spirited, inspired musicians to create and perform unconventional arrangements of known favorites, new originals. Bass, guitar, keyboard, cello, violin, other instruments welcomed. Todd 831/786-0625.

Musicians Wanted
For rebuilding local band. Eclectic original rock. Ages 21-30. No drugs. Visit or call www.band-auditions.com 408/946-7471.

Musicians Wanted
David Hull Blues Band seeks Hammond B3 keyboard player, bass player for original blues rock and some covers. Email texasbluesman@mindspring.com or call 408/324-8738.

Musicians Wanted
Established female vocalist seeks musicians for recording, gigs. saxaphone, piano, guitar, bass, drums. Send demo to: Najebi entertainment, P.O.Box 1351, Santa Cruz, CA. 95061-1351, najebi@yahoo.com 408/506-6327.

New, Exciting Band
Seeks Bass, keyboard, flute/horn players for soft latin dance band with female vocalist. Own equipment. Practice in San Jose. Call 408/241-8762.

Spread the Word!
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For piano and vocal lounge routine. For local paying gigs. seeking experienced pianist, improvise, jazz, interpretation. have transportation. Serious players call Matthew 408/298-1804 x2.

Singer/ Guitarist Wanted
Frontman, mid 20's. All originals, practice place. Into: SLF, Pogues, The Clash. San Jose based. Call John 408/629-3769.

Surf/Rock Players
Drummer seeks to form. Looking for guitarist, bassist to play Los Straightjackets, Dick Dale type music. Please be serious, ready to rehearse. Have gigs. Wes 408/370-3561.

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Bentwood rocker. Cane seat and back. $99. Preview at: http://home.pacbell.net/jewelsav/sale.html.

Water Bed
King size. Dark wood country style frame. Has a heater and some s heets. $150, or best offer. 408/283-0552.

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Recording, mixing, CD burning. Equipment like Manley and Avalon. **408/292-4315.**

Workhouse Studio
24 track ADAT studio with BRC locked to hardisc. 3 large rooms for recording. Specializing in sequencing, recording, mixing, mastering, digital editing. Major label credits. 408/287-1843.

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CD Duplication $.75
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REAL

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WEEK OF MARCH 1

Aries (March 21–April 19) Ah, Jim Brown. The Society for the Preservation of Objects in Motion. For months, I've planned astrological signals in the horoscopes of the other signs, carefully persuading them to be extra nice to you during the astrological season of Pisces. Statement: In March '01, which entity will most benefit your Aries fate to face with most resilience (karma, Phoenix, Shiva)? I hear that you yourself will be very heightened responsive. What in Ariesworld can I offer you to make the beginning little smooth and shiny? How about a subscription to the magazine *Healing Souls Monthly*?

Taurus (April 20–May 20) My favorite visionary astrologer, Elinor Greenstein, is a Taurus. The moon is opposing and exacting another Taurus right now, my daughter Zoe, is a Taurus. The comedian, brilliant Conan O'Brien, who has performed wonders on my meditative assistant, was born under the sign of the Bull. I also count among my Taurean acquaintances a present Wiccan priestess, a compassionate real estate agent who gives his clients great psychological counseling, a poet whose writing is both earthy and sublime, and an editor who's expert at helping authors endow their work with emotional intelligence. I'd celebrate them all, as I will you, dear reader, during the glorious weeks to come, when you will get to harvest the juicy ripe fruits of your wisdom.

Taurus (May 21–June 20) If you're a yoga enthusiast, it'll be the kind of week when you can do your asanas with more ease and grace than you thought possible. If you're a hard working wage slave, your favorite TV shows will amuse you more than ever before and you will discover a tasty new dip for your chips. Are you a right-wing goober? In the coming days you'll have experiences that have metaphorical equivalents to kid cats and bikes-in-cars. Are you an environmentalist who's part of the SAVE program? You'll detect an anomalous signal that may be from an extraterrestrial intelligence. Alert: If you're a wishful devotee of beauty and truth, Gemini, the animal within you will cooperate beautifully with your spirit as you struggle to master the difference between screwed and profane love.

Cancer (June 21–July 22) It'll be a great week to plan journeys to exotic watersheds, glimpse the back of your own head, and research ancient Druidcrafts. It'll also be prime time to try games with no rules, launch playful rebellions, and venture out on secret missions that remind you of how you felt when you were a teenager. You need more room to ramble and more unruled. Cancerian. You need smaller bathroom and a bigger voice and more extravagant expectations. Just this once, the cosmos is willing to give you the right to grab a little success by gambling.

Leo (July 23–Aug. 22) While exploring old boxes in the attic, my brilliant astrologer friend Luke Siegel as a award he got in high school, "Luke Dreyer has attained the highest average in science in his class," was the inscription. He also came across his SAT scores, which included an excellent 770 in math. Luke enjoyed a laugh as he thought about all the astrology-debunkers over the years who've called him a fuzzy-headed mystic. If they'd bothered to examine his work closely, they'd have seen he is a clear, objective thinker. But that would have required them to shed their irrational biases. Moral of the story: No matter how hard you work to express the fullness of your beautiful, complicated self, there will always be people who project distorted images onto you. But as long as you know it's their problem, not yours, they can't hurt you or throw you off-center.

Virgo (Aug. 23–Sept. 22) Welcome to the Mating and Dating Season, Virgo. To celebrate, I'm offering you my prescriptions for energizing an emphasis on the "Mating" part. Here's what you do: 1. Count your true loves (or the closest approximation) a 50 percent reduction in their existential debt to you. 2. Persuade them to appreciate what they imagine to be their physical flaws. 3. Solicit their inspiration to help you do what you love. 4. Request that they collaborate with you on implementing a partial solution to a complex problem. 5. Bless them with an experience resembling sex in zero gravity.

Libra (Sept. 23–Oct. 22) I was fortunate to have had my feelings hurt by articulate feminists when I was [illegible]

Scorpio (Oct. 23–Nov. 21) [illegible] Your brain is working so much more efficiently now. You're in danger of wearing yourself [illegible] might be wasted time or energy. Your gifts are more of the nine-and-a-half-to-five variety. Your challenge is to [illegible] the boundaries. That's the way [illegible] the [illegible] begin.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22–Dec. 21) The writer [illegible] one of the wonders in store for the [illegible] (mentally, though, most of you [illegible] metaphorical acrobats under the sun without knowing or caring where they're going. You're satisfied simply to [illegible] the [illegible] pure with the sensations of [illegible] the flight is what it is for its own? Now is the time to become a more evolved version of yourself. First, aim to open the targets. Use a hundred different [illegible] to [illegible] a few choice ones. Now here's the really good news. This is prime time, astrologically speaking, to do this work.

Capricorn (Dec. 22–Jan. 19) I wonder how far you'd be willing to go to reignite the [illegible] you need to activate your full potential. Would you be [illegible] an advertisement for Calvin Klein [illegible] if you were offered $10,000? Would you have to [illegible] top of yourself if it would raise [illegible] to [illegible] money from your rich uncle? Would you [illegible] every at meaningless drudge work for a million [illegible] a year? All of that stuff's pretty [illegible] compared to what I'm going to ask you to do. I've [illegible] a master plan that'll put you in the exact job you want.

Aquarius (Jan. 20–Feb. 18) I usually applaud your inclination to remain above the fray and disdain cut-and-dried observations. I normally honor your instinct to distance yourself from petty partisan squabbles. But this week's different. It's one of those rare times when plunged into the pit will be involved the kind of gnarled that might even [illegible] spattered entertainment. Set aside your usual wise reticence for once, I say, and start a riot on behalf of righteous proclamations. Write [illegible] letters, do [illegible] stand-up [illegible], you. Be the sparks and shakers with a thousand hots and hells, not the big talkers with a thousand promises.

Pisces (Feb. 19–March 20) It's never too late for many New Year's resolutions. In fact, I believe you'll have better luck keeping resolutions you make now than those you remembered around January 1. Here are some suggestions to get you started. Feel free to use them, but also devise [illegible] your own batch. "I will not keep secrets from my self. I will pursue [illegible] to understand. I will perfect my understanding of the difference between smart risks and dumb ones. I will master the art of dealing with adversaries that aren't dangerous to my emotional well-being."

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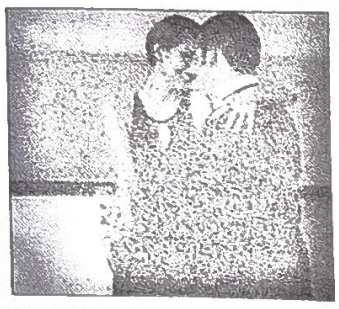

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Messages

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Sober(several years), 5'9", brown/blue, attractive and active. Educated. 33 years old. Enjoys outdoors, good food, and sometimes the finer things, too. I value mature, humorous, secure, beautiful and active, yet relaxed lifestyle. ☎9559

Shared Interests

Catholic Single
Seeking Catholic singles 18 - 35. Interested in meeting others with similar values for dining out, movies, weekend trios, and other fun activities. ☎9478

Crossed Signals

1/23 Union City Century 25
"The Pledge" 7:55 show high in back, wearing light blue jacket, Khakis, black ankle boots. Do you prefer to watch alone or would you like some company? ☎9476

1/14 El Camino
January 14, 2001. You driving on El Camino Real. White VW Jetta, very cute smile, had passenger. You turned left onto San Thomas Expressway. Me driving white mini van, dark hair. We flirted at the light. Would love to talk to you. Please respond! ☎9311

Happy New Year
Just wanted to say high. Wish I had your number. Went to Tahoe New Years weekend. Tish lets go out as friends, I'm bored! I won't leave you without a ride home either, plus will have a ton of fun without the lier. ☎9319

Post Office Wednesday
Inside the Cupertino Post Office around 9:30am, Wednesday 1/10. You:lovely, tall brunette. Me:dark hair. You were on your way out and I was buying stamps from the machine. We exchanged a smile. Would love to talk. ☎9316

Women Seeking Men

All Natural
Warm, fun-loving, good-natured, college-educated, career-minded yet values free time and being laid back, serious yet can laugh at life, open-minded, active, natural, and accepts and enjoys different people and cultures. Enjoys music, reading, hiking, fine dining, concerts, good conversation. Seeks friendship to long-term relationship with male 30-39, with warm smile, integrity, 5'10"+, and similar qualities. ☎9484

An Attractive Asian Lady For You
She's pretty, sexy, intelligent, 32, 5'3", 100 pounds, loves indoors and outdoors (hiking, movies, dining out, music, cooking), caring, fun to be with. Seeking an attractive, professional, athletic, gentleman for LTR. ☎9640

Attractive European Blonde
44, 5'7", fit, youthful looking, self sufficient professional, enjoys life, would love to share music, dancing, art, fine dining, weekend getaways with SWPM 5'11" or up. 42-53, handsome, easy going, financially secure, great sense of humor intellectual, for possible LTR. ☎9597

Baby Me
Sexy, beauty in and out, athletic, fun ISO TLC from fit, fun, handsome male 30-45, 5'9" and up, N/S, N/D. ☎9486

Brains & Beauty
Successful, stylish, and funny SBF, 35, 5'5, 125, with tons of interests (travel, salsa, spirituality, jazz, cooking, movies, hiking, snowboarding, working out), seeks similar athletic, handsome guy, any race, 30-40, for hanging out and who knows, maybe more... ☎9312

Brunette
SWF, 41, sincere, enjoys the outdoors, animals, walking, day trips, dining, seeking friendship/relationship with an honest, easy going, caring, SWM, 40's, NS, who enjoys happiness. ☎9491

Friendship Leading To Marriage
35 year old US citizen, Latin-American woman (US resident since childhood), never married, NS, ND, kind, educated with a sense of humor and conservative values. In search of friendship leading to marriage and children. Looking for a SWM (US citizen or legal resident of Iranian, Middle Eastern or Anglo-Saxon heritage) without children, height-weight proportioned, NS, ND, non-gambler, monogamous, no arrest record of any kind, mentally stable with morals, values, common sense, impulse control and respect for women. Must be educated, happily and honorably employed, no history of bankruptcy. Between ages 30-45. Please forward your correspondence with a recent, clear photo to: PO Box 55, North Highlands, CA 95660. Honest, serious inquiries only, please.

Charming
Easy going European lady looking for fun-loving, intelligent, W gentleman, 38-49. ☎9588

Chinese Lady
47, 5'3, 115lbs., pretty, educated, good heart. Interests in art, literature, travel, dance, garden, cooking. Seeking professional, or Christian, happy man, under 65 years old, for marriage. ☎9308

Emphasis-Passion
Pretty, petite, slender brunette, beautiful eyes/legs, witty, educated, athletic, sensual SJF, 44, seeks emotional, intellectual, and sexual intimacy with a broadly-educated, fit, SWM, 40s, who values nature, art, friendship, creating family. ☎9628

Do You Like Freaks?
Cuz I'm one. Not dirty. No strings, chains, or whips. ☎9576

Good Person
I am a SWF 63 years old, brown hair, blue eyes. Seeking understanding, lasting relationship, men 58-70, for movies, dining, non smokers, no games! ☎9324

Gorgeous Grandma
55, ex-model, dancer, still fit, is open to bright, creative, passionate, man with both oars in the water. ☎9494

High Energy
Brainy beauty, 40. DWF, in great shape. Unpretentious, happy-great legs, fabulous smile. Passionate about music and films. ☎9568

Hottie Looking For
Something to cool her down tall dark and handsome, 28 and up males. It's a size thing. ☎9572

Impressive Beauty
Pretty, petite, slender, muscular, fair, long hair, feminine, complexly educated, artistic - SJF, passionate, original, sensitive, spiritual, 44. Desires deeply thoughtful, bright, good-looking, educated, sensual, athletic SWM, 42-50, open to commitment and family, pleasure of body and mind. ☎9627

Marrying Kind
5'8" attractive, blonde/green, affectionate professional window German-American lady ISO faithful, good looking, compatible, educated, middle-Eastern gentleman. Loves cuddling, kissing, etc. ☎9411

Perfect Match
If you are an attractive, good-hearted, successful, educated caucasian gentleman and would like to be dating very attractive Asian woman. Please call to see if we are attracted to each other. I have high standards and require low maintenance. I have a big heart, a deep soul with a cute face. ☎9564

Possible Marriage
SWF, 41 years old, tall, 5'8", slender, likes travel, fun, and sports. Seeking wealthy, caring, SWM, 45-55 years old. ☎9632

SF,33
Life is a gamble. Why not try your luck with me. Looking for someone attractive, giving, trustworthy, loving, and above all, confident. Come play the game of life with me. ☎9562

Sweet Harmony
Beautiful goddess ISO conscious man 44-62. From infinite possibility let's create intimacy on the emotional, physical and spiritual plans with mutual compassion, respect, laughter, adventure and pampering. ☎9487

Sweet, Petite
SHF, 40's, fun, warm, romantic, fit, great sense of humor. Seeks single, professional, attractive, culture, established, classy, hell of a nice guy for laughter, great conversation, possible LTR, and more laughter. ☎9635

Train Me
Shapely, sexy, fun, athletic ISO training partner amd more 30-45, tri athlete a plus. ☎9639

Versatile
Adventuresome WF, 47, 5'7". Into 2nd hand treasures and finding the fun, the good, and the humorous in everything. ISO WM 45-55 who hates routine. ☎9589

Winter Moon
Cute SWF 42, seeking a sensative, loving SWM 32-48 for casual dating for LTR. I live in San Jose. ☎9301

You: Latino Male
35-50 years old, athletic, intelligent, romantic, fun loving, financially secure, love dancing (salsa, merengue, R&B), jazz, dining, movies, animals. Call this attractive, trim, 5'5", blonde/blue, unique, successful 45 hip chick for dating and fun or LTR. ☎9414

Men Seeking Women

'Lil Bit Country
Just a simple country software dude in "silly" con valley. ISO compatible SAF. I'm 43, 6'1", humorous, witty, athletic, and friendly. Oh yeah, I'm a SAM (abc). ☎9575

A Perky Old Geezer
Very healthy SW lad of 67. ISO wise and romantic partner on this immensely challenging journey of spirits. ☎9563

A Relational Man?
DWPM 45, ISO S/DPF 35-55 for companionship, love. Enjoys music, indoor/outdoor activities, good company, family, spiritual things. Good relational conversation a must. ☎9642

Always And
Forever. Good looking DWM, 55, fit, secure, sensitive, educated, humorous, seeking open, honest, long term relationship with a pretty, fit, secure, communicative female, 37-45. ☎9418

Architect
Into kayaking, looking for outdoor enjoyment with friendly 30 something lady. ☎9577

Artist Romantic
Handsome artist, 185lbs, 6', strong young 41, funny, compassionate, romantic singer, Italian mix, not afraid of commitments. Seeks curvy, independent woman longing for special chemistry. ☎9592

Asian Lady
SWPM, 42, NS, no drugs, sincere, honest, smart, affectionate, tall, fun, seeks sweet, smart, attractive, fun, SAF for hiking, concerts, friendship, romance, possible future together. ☎9488

Asian Lady
SWPM, 42, no smoking, no drugs, sincere, honest, smart, affectionate, tall, fun. Seeks sweet, smart, attractive, fun, SAF for hiking, concerts, friendship, romance; possible future together. ☎9593

Asian/Hispanic
Female 25-41, trim. Wanted by SWM, 49, 6'1", 205 pounds, professional. For rock and Roll, dancing, shows, the beach, romance, and having fun together. ☎9631

Black Female
Tall, attractive SWM, 51, with athletic build, financially secure, seeks slender, attractive, black female for long term relationship. ☎9483

Busty/Mature?
SWM, 36, br/br, respectful, good looks, nice body, healthy, educated, wants to be specific to meeting F 22+, sweet, educated, naturally super busty DD+, good health, not overly obese, and fun for dining out, movies, skiing, travel, working out, anything fun or new. Single parent a plus! ☎9570

Cancer
Looking for earth and water signs. 6', blue eyes, professional. Wants soul mates 35 to 49. ☎9582

Chips, Dips
Chains, Whips-no thanks. I still need a valentine and time is ticking away. Get ready for some finger licking love adventure. ☎9581

Cool Guy
Seeks mod girl. Me: Into new wave 80's, dancing, Morrissey, dining out, movies, ballet, opera, and travel. You: Attractive, 21-30, and uninhibited. P.S.- I'm 30, 6'1", 185, blue eyes, and dark hair. ☎9584

Dating Recipe
Mix: supportive, monogamous, secure, handsome, 30yo SM with car, career, accommodations. Add conversation, good listner, sense of humor. Serve with independent, mature, affectionate, NS SF who enjoys life ☎9569

DWM
5'10", blonde hair, blue eyes. Respectful, sincere with a big heart, seeking Asian female 30-42. Must like hiking, walks on the beach or just a quiet evening. Must be loving of children and animals and all things they encompass. Must be vegetarian or close. Must be willing to give back some of the blessings the lord has given you. Sincere only. Photo and short note would be appreciated. P.o. Box 827 Los Gatos, CA 95031-0827 ☎9643

DIAL 1-900-288-6997 or 1-800-335-6123 (with credit card)

Only $1.99 per minute ♥ 18 and up ♥ Or Call 408/298-8500 to place your own ad

DWM 45
Blonde/blue, N/S, N/D, stable conservative professional with liberal eccentric bohemian tendencies. ISO equally prismatic, intelligent, articulate lady companion to exchange life's intimacies. Appearances are unimportant, but quality of soul is. All letters answered. P.O. Box 54102 San Jose, CA. 95154-0102. ☎9410

Faithful, Caring
SPWM, 35, 6', easy going, fun, athletic, sports, dancing, romantic evenings. ISO SF 25-40 who enjoys life with similar interest and spontaneous dates. ☎9565

Foxy Lady
25 year old looking for an older lady who likes to listen to jazz, blues and rock and roll. Positive and a lover of life. 18-45. ☎9407

Friendship/ Romance
DWPM, 61, 6'1", 185 pounds. No smoking. ISO 50ish, slender, very attractive lady who appreciates honesty, intelligent conversation, golf, dining, concerts, fun, LTR. ☎9473

Fun Loving Guy
Looking for short term relationship. ☎9590

Good Guy
Seeking bad girl. I'm 5'11" with short black hair, dark brown eyes, a slim muscular build, and tattoos. Looking for a girl with tattoos and piercings. ☎9579

Great Catch!
SWM, 6'1", 185lbs, well built, 38 (looks younger), sexy, romantic, passionate, intelligent, witty, monogamous, with many interests. Seeks very attractive, similar female for sharing the diversity that life has to offer. From brief romance to soulmate. ☎9598

Handsome Attorney
SWM 47, 6', 185lbs, fit successful, easy going, interesting law practice, seeks bright, attractive, good humored SF. Photo/note appreicated. P.O. Box 2010 Los Gates, CA 95031. ☎9408

Handsome Pisces
Youthful SWM, early 50's. Tall, humorous, affectionate, and monogamous. ISO an attractive, affectionate, 43-53 SWF. Non-smoker. Also must be witty. Let's hook up! ☎9474

Have House
Will make and take good care of wife and babies. Love to shred. Peace. ☎9578

Humorous
Intelligent, romantic, tall. Enjoys intimate conversation, outdoors, golf, biking. Comfortable tux to jeans. Age 51. Seeking active, fit, financially, emotionally secure woman. N/S, N/D. ☎9405

I Am
32 years old seeking 20 something. ☎9573

James Bond Type
Handsome, adventurous, romantic 45 year old SWM seeks attractive, slim female for romance and adventure. This 007 type has a license to love. ☎9624

Let's Go Shopping
SPJM looking for petite, fit, attractive, female 35-47 for ltr. I am tan, toned body, down to earth, and a lot of fun to be with. ☎9587

Let's Snowboard!
Fit, Trim DWM, 42. Seeks F 30-40 for fun, romance, hiking, camping, exploring, photography, swing dancing, easy going, loves animals. ☎9585

Looking For Love
I'm a fine, successful, and professional guy looking for a fine lady for love. I'm for real. 27, 5'3", 125 pounds, and fit. ☎9409

Marriage Minded
Seeking a woman who is affectionate, passionate, faithful, randy, loving, kind, down to earth, loves kids, and enjoys Star Trek, movies, and cuddling. ☎9630

Native Texan
Seeks pretty lady, 20s to 40s, for friendship/relationship. I'm sexy, tall(6'1"), dark, handsome, fit, fun, healthy, happy, easy-going, athletic, slender, very successful, unattached, and available. Would love to meet...Call me. ☎9475

Natural Beauty
25 year old SBM, 6'1", handsome. ISO very nice, caring, fun loving, sincere, SAF. Someone who likes movies, sports, and just likes to have a natural good time. ☎9629

New To Bay Area
SWPM 29, 6', blondie hair, green eyes, midwest values, well traveled, lived in Switzerland and Germany. Kind heart, enjoys the outdoors, hiking, rock climbing, astronomy, camping music. ISO professional female with good values. ☎9626

P/T Single Dad
Professional, 39, 6'1", 210. Seeking one special SW-AF for fun, friendship, and romance. Slightly crazy, single mom-type a plus, but not required. ☎9566

Party Invitations!
Or...? Silicon Valley used to be apricot and cherry orchards. Now I'm back after 20 years of world exploration. I ski, massage, play roots music, and eat very healthy. 40, good looking, and would like to make new friends. ☎9580

Priceless Gifts
Man 54, endowed with priceless gifts, lively mind, kind heart, playful spirit, fit body. Desires woman equally and femininely well endowed, for exchanging gifts. P.O. Box 571, Burlingame, CA. 94011. ☎9412

Professional American
Wants to meet a fun, sexy friend to create excitement and commitment; long term responsibilities. She must be fun, sexy, happy, real, and great personality. ☎9574

Professor
College Professor 5'10" plus, 165lbs, likes working out, dancing, long conversations with that special woman, concerts, and poems. He's honest, caring, romantic. ISO special woman 40's to mid 50's. ☎9599

Rain Or Shine, I'll Be There
Romantic, thoughtful, sensitive, SWM, 45, 5'4", 155lbs., enjoys nature, movies, Harleys, festivals, reading, gardening, quiet times. Seeking cute, bright, communicative, eccentric, affectionate, medium/slim, sincere, SWF, 33-45, N/S. No kids for LTR. ☎9625

Rican From Brooklyn
Middle ager ISO friend, companion, confident. Sharing hugs, cuddles, hand-holding, loving kisses, togetherness, enjoyable harmony, receiving warmth, protection, security. Try, win! Send photo. P.O. Box 3123, San Jose, CA 95156.

Roman Hands
Italian SWM 35, sexy, handsome, intelligent, humorous, mature, playful. ISO smart, attractive, petite SWHF 20 to 30 for friendship, cuddling, and romance. ☎9479

San Jose Man
I'm a 60 year old SWM who is looking for nice woman. A woman that is a very sexy, that likes dancing, walking and some travel. I'm very nice and easy going, not that bad looking. ☎9622

Searching For the Other Half
I am a 33 year old man, educated, well-traveled, with a nice east European accent. You are a 25-33 year old lady, down to earth, with good values. Let's meet. ☎9586

Seeking Special Someone
DWPM, 61, 6'1", 180, handsome, intelligent, sincere. ISO very attractive, slender, average height lady for travel, golf, concerts, movies, fun, LTR. ☎9596

Single Male
Seeking female 25-35 years old for hiking, tennis and live music. ☎9571

SM Seeks SF
SM 6', 210lbs brown/blue seeks SF for fun, possible romance. Me: happy, positive, open, full of life. You be the same. ☎9480

Thin Model
57, 150 pounds. Don't apply if you love gumbo, or hate parrots! I collect knives and fragrances. Planning on moving to Cancun...maybe you can too. ☎9583

Used Ex-Boyfriend
1964 SHM, N/S, great body, runs excellent, handles curves nicely. Seeking new owner, SF 28-40 N/S to give TLC and steer him on road to happiness. MLB#430 ☎9406

Valentine Girl
SWM 39, 5'9", brown hair, hazel eyes, I'm told I'm good looking. Loves daughter 11, cooking, hiking, Harley rides, guitar, light partying. Seeks down to earth SF. ☎9404

Virgin SWM
I am a virgin SWM seeking a virgin SF for a long term relationship/married. To see my picture and more information, check out my yahoo personal add and search by key word shyswm2000. MLB#433. ☎9636

Widow Sought
My faith indicates I should try this once. A kind, handsome, caring, very successful, artistic scientist. SWPM, 45, for SWPF, 35-45. For LTR. This is your chance for a sweet sophisticated gentleman. ☎9594

'Lil Bit Country
Just a simple country software dude in "silly" con valley. ISO compatible SAF. I'm 43, 6'1", humorous, witty, athletic, and friendly. Oh yeah, I'm a SAM (abc). ☎9575

A Perky Old Geezer
Very healthy SW lad of 67. ISO wise and romantic partner on this immensely challenging journey of spirits. ☎9563

A Relational Man?
DWPM 45, ISO S/DPF 35-55 for companionship, love. Enjoys music, indoor/outdoor activities, good company, family, spiritual things. Good relational conversation a must. ☎9642

Always And
Forever. Good looking DWM, 55, fit, secure, sensitive, educated, humorous, seeking open, honest, long term relationship with a pretty, fit, secure, communicative female, 37-45. ☎9418

Architect
Into kayaking, looking for outdoor enjoyment with friendly 30 something lady. ☎9577

Artist Romantic
Handsome artist, 185lbs, 6', strong young 41, funny, compassionate, romantic singer, Italian mix, not afraid of commitments. Seeks curvy, independent woman longing for special chemistry. ☎9592

Women Seeking Women

Friends Wanted
I'm looking for female companionship-movies, walks, etc. I'm bi-curious and would love to meet others who are as well. ☎9310

New In Town
Just flew in from the East Bay! All work and no play driving this feisty woman crazy. Seeking tour guides, friends, and lovers. ☎9315

Men Seeking Men

Asian
Attractive GAM. 52 years old, slim, 5'7", caring. Seeking an older GWM for relationship. I like cooking, quiet times, and traveling. No Smoking. ☎9641

European Male
Top seeks white, asian, latino males. Me: 6'1", 195lbs, 39. You: same or younger, seeking fun and possible LTR. ☎9320

Inexperienced/ Curious
BiWM, boyishly handsome, athletic, great build, 5'10, 170, healthy, intelligent, masculine, friendly, sensual, seeking similar hot WM, 21-38, for discreet exploration, mutual pleasure.Joe, Rick did not get your number, please call again. ☎9490

Seeking Dominance
GAM 45, 6', 153lbs, passive, femme seeking older, understanding GAM/GWM for discreet relationship. ☎9300

Wrestling
Straight acting dude, 31, 5'8, 165, looking for other straight appearing guys that like to wrestle for fun and a good workout. Prefer 21-36, 135-180. ☎9313

European Male
Top seeks white, asian, latino males. Me: 6'1", 195lbs, 39. You: same or younger, seeking fun and possible LTR. ☎9320

ASK THE advice

BY AMY ALKON

alkon@metronews.com

My boyfriend and I were together for over two years. We broke up when I went away to college. Recently, he moved here, and we started spending a lot of time together. We are, in many ways, acting like we are together. He tells me every day that he loves me. Still, I'm not sure whether I should get back together with him because I'm afraid I will get hurt again. It killed me when we first broke up. Then again, I'm equally afraid not to give "us" another chance, because I love him so much and I'm scared to death of losing him forever (which is what will happen if things don't work out). What should I do? —Frozen

Everybody's looking for a fairy-tale ending: "Gazing deep into each other's eyes, they strolled over the hill, hand in hand, into the sunset . . . and were promptly flattened by a passing van."

Oops. That was the Stephen King ending. Or rather, how Stephen King almost ended.

Life is dangerous. One of my favorite deep thinkers, Krishnamurti, says in the book, *Freedom From the Known*, "The demand to be safe in a relationship inevitably breeds sorrow and fear."

I'm with him. If you want love in your life, you have to agree to the cover charge—pain that sears you right down to your DNA. You do this by embracing loss. Things end. Relationships tank. What's alive eventually kicks off . . . one way or another. If you accept that this will happen to you and yours, and that you won't spontaneously disintegrate into a pile of cracker crumbs when it does, you can live in the moment instead of living in fear that you won't have any more moments.

Ironically, people who accept loss as a part of life seem best at preventing it. Biologist Jay Phelan, who co-wrote the page-turner *Mean Genes*, put it this way: "I try to be the man I imagine my wife would cheat on me with."

Sideline the popular view of commitment (that it's a license to get fat, smelly and boring) in favor of acting like you're permanently on your first date, and you aren't sure whether you'll be offered the opportunity for a second one.

Avoid beaching yourself in front of the television like a drunken walrus, burn all your stained gray tee shirts, and resolve never to speak to your boyfriend in the tone you'd use on someone who's just dumped a wheelbarrow of manure on your Persian rug. For added electricity, you might even consider (gasp!) living apart. Behave as if the lights could go out on your love at any moment, and it might actually last . . . that is, until speeding van conversion do you part.

What kind of guy breaks up with you via email? My boyfriend and I were together for over a year. Recently, I went with him to his friend's place, got pretty drunk and made attempts at humor that he found offensive. I subsequently apologized to him and his friends. I know I cannot handle my alcohol. I just slipped that night. I am truly sorry and he knows it. After a few days, he sent me an email saying that I was "unfit" to be his life's companion and he was "letting me go." After a year and half, just because I messed up, I'm not even worth a phone call? —Unceremoniously Fired

I can't sail ten feet without turning lime green and making a run for the edge of the boat. Hence, I've chosen to become an intellectual dominatrix (which makes only select others nauseous) instead of fighting it out for captainhood of our entry to the America's Cup. Likewise, if you can't drink and quip, you'd better quit drinking or quipping or both. Of course, you probably won't quit either one until you hit bottom—bottom being when the next boyfriend you embarrass weasels out of your relationship via Internet chain letter from 35,000 strangers from around the globe.

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Something Wild 1-900-328-8278 or 1-888-996-4984 (with credit card)

$2.49 per minute. 18 and up. Touch Tone Phone. Call 408-298-8500 to place your own ad.

Women Seeking

Beautiful Latina
Bi-sexual Latina, loves sex! Love to have a good time, and share my good looking boyfriend. Must be open minded, mature, and good looking! ☎1251

Bi Female
ISO that special lady to party, play and enjoy good times with. Race unimportant. 32C-24-34 female calls only! ☎1167

Gay Women
30 and older. Are you avid filmgoers? Art films, foreign, indies, and gay;let's view and review them over coffee or dinner. ☎1252

Hotcutie
Hot couple looking for young cutie for intimate relationship. We are attractive, honest, discrete, and safe. ISO young, cute, honest and open. ☎1253

Sexy and Attractive
Young female seeking a very wealthy and generous sugar daddy for sensuous massage and fun. Should be clean, open minded, and discreet. ☎1358

Sexy Mistress
With trim figure. Desires male submissive. Be ready to be trained, show appreciation, and learn to serve in a discreet manner. ☎1254

Submissive WF
WPF, 33 years old, looking for dominant couple. M or F to satisfy my fantasy. ☎1260

WPF, 33
Looking for dominant F who can be my mistress. I am very submissive...can't wait to be your slave! ☎1259

Younger Blonde
SF, 48, Seeking generous gentleman in 70's, that likes to play on weekends. ☎1270

Men seeking

All Things
I'm a little bit of everything, vanilla, straight, spiritual, wild, cross dress, BD/SM. Attractive, safe, sane, respectful, NS/ND, healthy professional teacher. ☎1274

AreUSubmissive?
Master Richard is seeking new submissives;female or male in the San Jose area. Just moved out this way from San Francisco. Plays a lot at Power Exchange ,Bondage A Go Go, or Dark Garden parties. ☎1255

Athletes Only
18-25 ISO white jocks for erotic massage, discreet, by white C.M.T. Serious replies please. ☎1273

Black Male
Clean, healthy, 44, 180lbs. Seeks pretty petite WF lesbian couple 20-38 years old. Together learn to peak and perfect triangle. ☎1307

Cum Stretch Out
Come explore! ☎1362

Dominant
Seeks pretty, submissive, 20s to 40s, for ongoing friendship/relationship. I'm sexy, tall, 6'1", dark, handsome, fit, fun, healthy, happy, easy-going, athletic, slender, very successful, unattached, and available. Meet for coffee? call me. ☎1262

Fantasy Assured
45years old, 6'1", 195 pounds.Looking for WM 35-60 years old. All things go, my place. ☎1256

Hotel At 4
Home at 7. DWM 40's, 5'5", 160lbs ISO slender married lady 25-40. Go ahead take that leap. Will respond to all. MLB#431 ☎1175

Hung Guys
Bi, WM seeks fun, top male. I'm 35, 5'9", 168. Looking for 7+ and thick. Age and race unimportant. Safe only. HIV-. ☎1308

Husband Has Wife's Permission
To be shared. Professional straight WMC 50, but look younger. Husband is handsome and has nice body. Seeks DBF, SBF, or MBF who likes to play but is not looking for romance. You should be attractive, slender, aggressive, and likes to be in control. Please call or write, box holder P.O. Box 91 Santa Clara CA 95052-0091. ☎1306

Double Your Wardrobe
Shameless and unrepentant tranny seeks soulmate (I do guy stuff, too). Must have sense of humor, 40+, no smoking. Have wigs; will share!

Just Sex
No strings. SWM, 40's. Seeks sincere female. Hot, steamy, sweaty sex; oral. Almost anything you can imagine in your wildest fantasy. Primordial kind of sex. ☎1356

Kind Man
54, endowed with precious spirit, heart, mind, body, desires woman, equivalently endowed, with unusually large breasts for intensely passionate mind-heart-body relationship. ☎1360

Kind Young Prince
Seeking several female slaves to have pleasant adventures with. I am a kind and loving master. ☎1263

Lady Constance
Lost contact with you long ago. I wish to restart my training if you'll have me. ☎1303

Man OF Action
Handsome, strong, 6 foot, 48 year old professional. Seeking slim, smart, sweet, feminine submissive women. 28-36, ready for fun, adventure, and to be my best friend. ☎1250

Manly Man
GWM, slightly feminine, 48, good looking, ISO aggressive male who likes to take the lead and wear the pants in the family. Call. ☎1267

Massage For The Naked
Incredibly soothing, sensual, erotic, and free. For fit and trim men or women 18 to 45 by trim, friendly WM, 43. ☎1357

Need BDSM Training?
Dominant DWM will train willing sub, or switch female in live program. Possible LTR. I am 49, 5'11", lean, fit, and disease free. Novice Ok. ☎1359

Older Asian Couple
Desired. I am a mature white male, fit, good looking. You observe while I thrill your lady. Call for exciting details. ☎1266

Oral Master
Seeks drop-dead gorgeous woman to pleasure. ☎1265

Special Service
For handsome, HIV- WM. Bi or married OK. By hot Asian 36, 5'6", 125. Sit back and relax. Enjoy yourself! ☎1257

TV, Slim, Sexy, Blonde
Very pretty, very passable, smooth all over, skirts, dresses, heels always. Seeking tall SM, 35 plus. Be bold, be hot, call me, wet amd waiting. LTR desirable. ☎1169

Visual Stimulation
Handsome young man seeks gorgeous beauty for mutual visual stimulation. ☎1264

Willing To Lie!
Seeking a woman who must be willing to lie about how we met. I enjoy hiking, bicycling, travel. Fun, SPM, 29. ISO SWF, 24-40. ☎1272

All Things
I'm a little bit of everything, vanilla, straight, spiritual, wild, cross dress, BD/SM. Attractive, safe, sane, respectful, NS/ND, healthy professional teacher. ☎1274

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Couples Seeking

Couple
He's lithe, she's rubenesque, look in 50's, average height, seeks lively, healthy, average to great shaped couple 50-60 for sex and good conversation. ☎1361

Couple In 40s
Seeks same. To party and play with on weekends. Us: she is 5'4", 139lbs, blonde/hazel. He is 5'5", dark hair, 170lbs. Drink, smoke, etcetera is fine. Must love to dress up. Heavyset woman very acceptable. ☎1269

D/s Couple
WP couple looking for a reasonably attractive female to assist Dom with his sub. He/she 40's, fit and clean. Only serious like minded please. ☎1304

Mixed Couple
AF, WM, happily married, attractive, fit, middle age, open minded and nudists. Seek similar for friendship and fun. ☎1258

Voluptuous
Couple seeking voluptuous woman to engage in LT sumisive relationship, mid 40's and up, to party with on the weekends. BiF ok. Must love to look erotic. ☎1268

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(attach a separate sheet of paper if necessary)

Acceptable Abbreviations

S=Single	D=Divorced	G=Gay	F=Female
M=Male	A=Asian	B=Black	H=Hispanic
I=Indian	J=Jewish	W=White	P=Professional

ISO=In Search Of

The Straight & Life in Hell

BY CECIL ADAMS

cecil@metronews.com

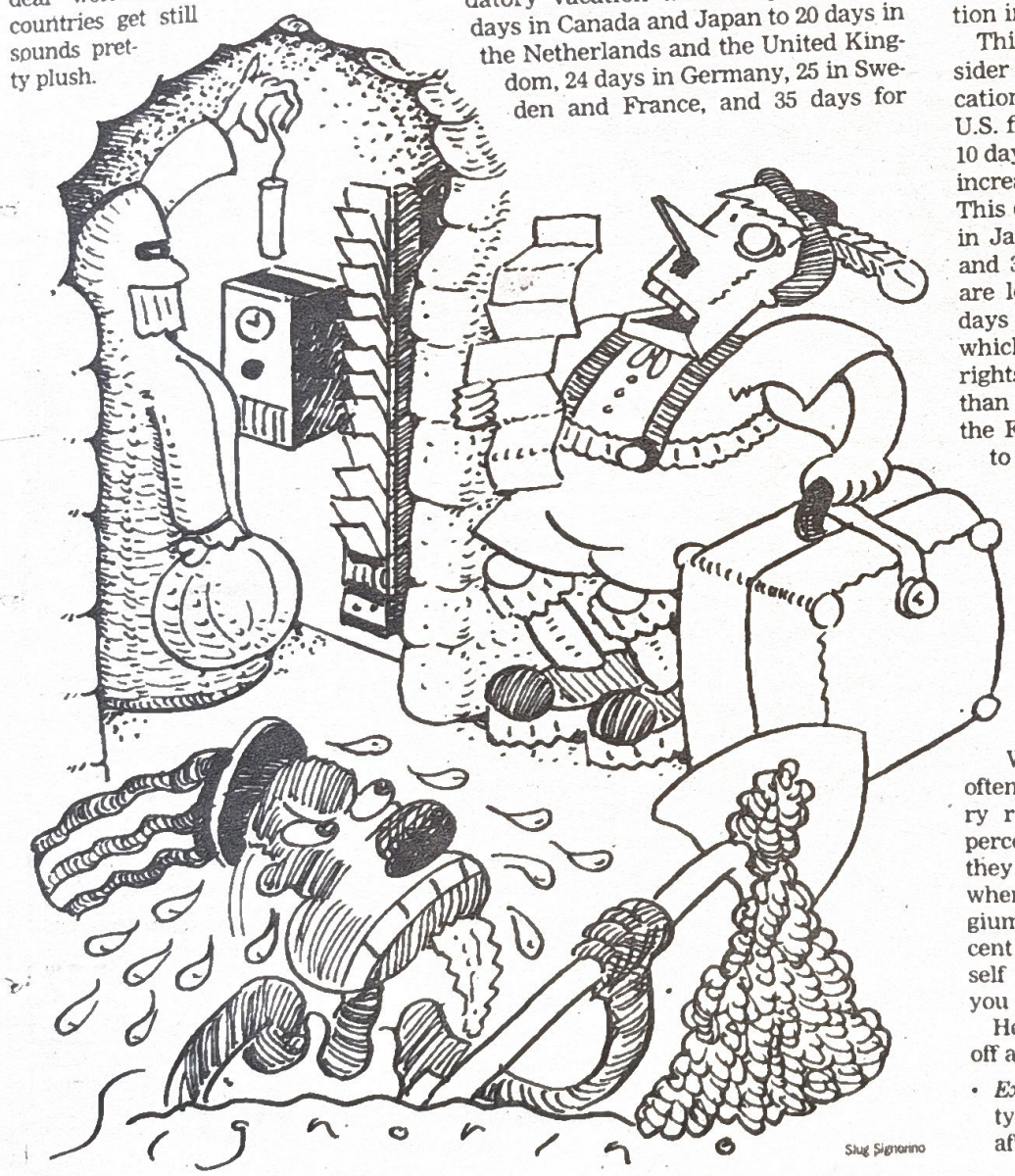
A while ago you compared tax rates in the United States to those in other developed countries [Dec. 1]. How about doing the same for vacation time? I've heard the Germans get so many days off they only have to work four days a week, and I don't get the impression the French are overexerting themselves either. What's the straight dope?

—Dan Lubben, San Jose, California

You've heard about the German work ethic? Hah. According to Sam of the Straight Dope Science Advisory Board, who works at a consulting firm that specializes in employee compensation, required vacation time in Germany and other developed countries is much greater than in the United States. He cautions that just because Americans seem to be working longer doesn't mean they're working harder, etc. But the deal workers in other countries get still sounds pretty plush.

Sam compared time off from work in nine countries—six in Europe plus Japan, Canada and the United States. When it comes to public holidays, all the countries are pretty much alike, with totals ranging from eight days in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom to fourteen in Japan (the United States has nine).

It's in the category of "required vacation at full pay" that we see a big difference. Outside the United States, mandatory vacation time ranges from 10 days in Canada and Japan to 20 days in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, 24 days in Germany, 25 in Sweden and France, and 35 days for managers in Italy. The required vacation in the United States? None.



Slug Signorino

Things even out a bit when we consider Sam's last category, "common vacation practice at large employers." U.S. firms typically give their workers 10 days (two weeks) off in the first year, increasing to 25 days after 20 years. This compares to 21 days after 15 years in Japan, 25 after 20 years in Canada, and 30 days in Germany. The French are legally entitled to two and a half days of vacation per month worked, which means they're within their rights to take a full 25 days off after less than a year on the job. And of course the French work week is now limited to 35 hours.

Feeling overworked? It gets worse. In many countries employers provide a vacation allowance, sometimes called vacation loading. For example, in Mexico, if you're entitled to 20 days' vacation, your employer must pay you for the 20 days plus another 25 percent, or the equivalent of 25 days' pay. What's more, Mexican employers often give much more than the statutory requirement—typically around 80 percent. Granted, base pay is low, but they do the same thing in Europe, where wage scales are higher. In Belgium the vacation premium is 85 percent of one month's pay. Console yourself with the thought that in general you pay less tax.

Here are some other interesting time-off arrangements:

- *Extended leave.* In Australia workers typically receive 13 weeks' paid leave after 15 years on the job. In many Muslim countries extended leave is provided for a pilgrimage to Mecca (the catch: you can take it only once in your career). In Indonesia workers get paid time off during the workday for prayer. In Italy, which has different priorities, you get 15 days off with pay if you get married.
- *Blood donation.* In Brazil employees must be given one day off with pay to donate blood.
- *Menstrual leave.* In Japan, Korea and many Muslim countries women get one day off with pay each month. (Only a cad would add: I bet the men are glad they do.)

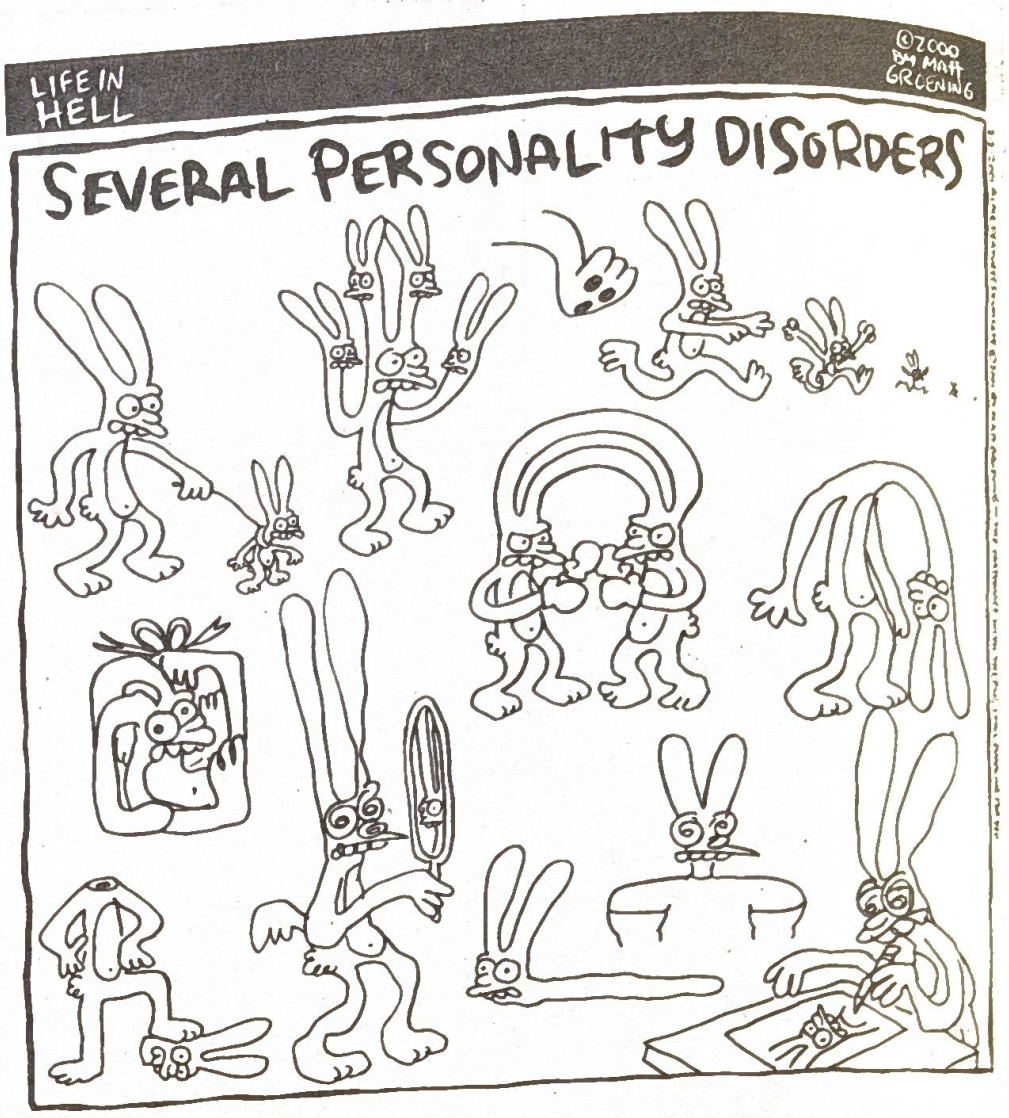
Does that answer your question, Dan? Good. Now get back to work.

As a person cursed with many cowlicks, I would like to know of any possible cures for my constantly up-on-end hair. You are one of the few information sources I trust. —Vince G.

As a former victim of cowlick, Vince, I've got good news for you. Just sit tight for a few years. The problem will solve itself.

Want to argue with Cecil?

Write him c/o Metro, 550 S. First St., San Jose, 95113, or use the message board at straightdope.com. Cecil's latest compendium of knowledge, *Triumph of the Straight Dope*, is available at bookstores everywhere.



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My name's Martha. I'm 29 yrs. old. I have long, blonde hair & green eyes. I'm around 5'9". I'm just looking for men to talk to. ***Box 31448.***

My name's Heather. I'm 30 yrs. old. I have long, red hair & blue eyes. I'm 5'4". I'm French & Spanish. I'm very down-to-earth. I love to salsa dance. I wouldn't say I'm a club girl but I like to go dancing sometimes. I just like to do anything that involves getting out & having fun. I like to be around people who like to do the same thing. ***Box 11651.***

My name's Lisa. I'll be 23 yrs. old in May. I have 2 young children, a son & a daughter who are both 5 yrs. old. I'm Mexican. I weigh about 145 lbs. I'm about 5'4". I have long, black hair & dark-brown eyes. I'm looking for someone for a long-term relationship. Age, race & looks don't matter to me. It's what's in the heart that counts. The number one thing is my children. He must accept my children. ***Box 11107.***

My name's Patty. I'm a black female. I'm 5'6". I'm about a medium build. I'm very easygoing, very honest & loyal. I'm looking for a tall man who shares his innermost thoughts & feelings. ***Box 11010.***

I'm a 33 yr. old, Asian female who's 5'3" tall & weighs 115 lbs. with short hair & brown eyes. I'm definitely fit. I'm into working out. I'm very outgoing, honest & sincere. I'm not into playing games. I'm looking for a person between 32-39 yrs. old who's also into physical fitness & who knows how to take care of himself. Someone who's definitely also outgoing, intelligent & can carry a good conversation & is not into playing games. I prefer an honest, sincere gentleman who can pretty much speak his mind. ***Box 10459.***

MEN SEEKING **WOMEN**

My name's Brandon. I'm currently attending college. My major is massage therapy. I'm looking for some new people to talk to. I like to go to Santa Cruz & check out the boardwalk. I like snow-boarding. ***Box 13928.***

I'm a nice guy looking for a nice girl. I'm an attractive, 5'5" tall, Asian-American male. I'm looking for someone who's preferably thin-built. Someone who likes going camping & hiking. I'm looking for someone who wants to have fun & is ready to settle down. ***Box 11710.***

This is Erik. I'm 5'10" & weigh 225 lbs. I'm muscular. I've been described as looking like a professional wrestler, but I'm just a sweetheart inside. Honesty & maturity are important. I'm 41 yrs. old. ***Box 9727.***

I'm a very energetic, classy, romantic, passionate man in San Francisco. I'm slim, have short, dark-brown hair & dark-brown eyes. I have a Mediterranean complexion. I'm very attractive & well educated. I'm quite spontaneous. I love to dance. I'm passionate about cooking & fine dining. I'm a connoisseur of wines. I love to travel. I'm into the arts. I love to salsa & tango. I'm looking to talk to people who are romantic, passionate, who have a zest for life & are appreciative of the finer things in life. I'm also spiritual & would love to talk. ***Box 7596.***

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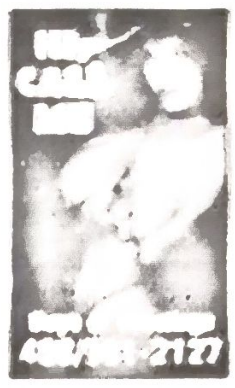

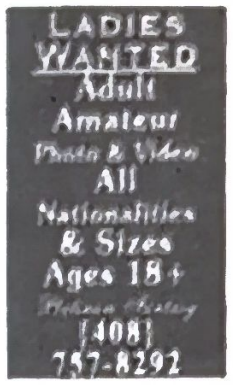

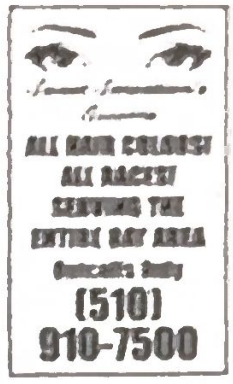

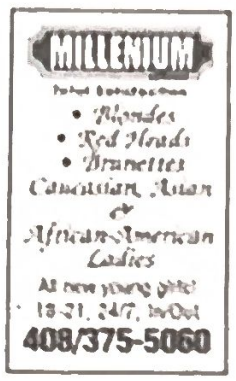

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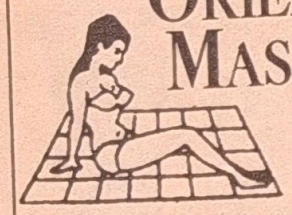

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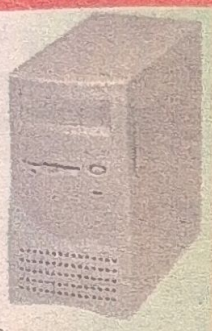

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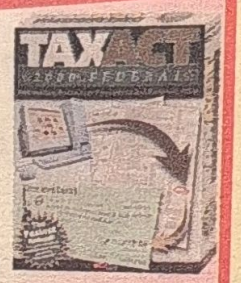

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